



New Zealand Taxpayers' Union Incorporated

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MEDIA RELEASE

TAXPAYERS' UNION OFFERS PRIZE TO AUCKLANDER WITH LARGEST RATES INCREASE

THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The *Taxpayers' Union* is offering a lawn mower to the householder who can provide evidence of the highest Auckland Council percentage increase in rates and user-charges.

"While we are receiving reports from Auckland residents of cumulative rate increases of over 30 per cent within few years, Auckland Council is reducing services such as berm mowing," says Jordan Williams, Executive Director of the *Taxpayers' Union*.

"While Len Brown is hiding behind the 'average' figure of 2.5 per cent, this is merely an attempt to disguise just how much extra some Auckland households are paying."

"The fact that many Aucklanders are still hitting the 10 per cent cap put on annual rate increases demonstrates the extent of the cumulative increases for some households."

"The 2.5 per cent does not take into account increased user charges for council services."

"Even using Mr Brown's own figures, the proposed rate increase is almost double the rate of inflation. Aucklanders should be expecting more, not less, services from their Council."

"Mr Brown has promised more transparency, but the new complex rating system and user-charges means that we are able to run a competition to figure out just how adversely affected some families are."

ENDS

COMPETITION TERMS:

The *New Zealand Taxpayers' Union Incorporated* seeks rates and user-charge invoices for Council services showing the total uncapped percentage increase in rates and user-charges since the 2011/2012 baseline. The resident who provides the largest percentage increase for the same property, as determined by the *Taxpayers' Union*, will win.

Documentation must be sent to the *Taxpayers' Union*, PO Box 10518, The Terrace, Wellington. To be eligible, entries must be received before 5pm Friday 29 November 2013.

Entrants are only eligible to win the prize if they include their contact email and phone number on the documentation entered, are willing to certify the accuracy of the documentation provided and are willing to have their name publicly disclosed.

Please contact the *Taxpayers' Union* (via tipline@taxpayers.org.nz) if you require further information.

The winner will receive a CraftMaster Petrol Lawnmower model KM375PM, or similar.

The *Taxpayers' Union* decision on entitlement to the prize is final.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The *New Zealand Taxpayers' Union* is a non-partisan activist group, dedicated to being the voice for Kiwi taxpayers in the corridors of power. It's here to fight government waste and make sure New Zealanders get value for money from their tax dollar.

The *Taxpayers' Union* operates a 24 hour media line for comment on taxpayer issues. Representatives are available on (04) 282 0302.

High resolution images and logos are available on request or online at <http://www.taxpayers.org.nz/pages/resources>