

COLUMN FROM MAYOR TIM SHADBOLT

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Councils all over New Zealand are desperately fighting, negotiating and manoeuvring themselves in the ever growing queue to try and get their hands on the Government's \$500 million infrastructural fund. Some Councillors believe I should jostle and elbow my way into the queue and try and get a slice of the pie. I have no intention of doing this because I believe it would be a waste of time and money.

Invercargill doesn't really have any major infrastructural projects of national significance. I certainly intend organising a delegation and approaching the new Government but I will be lobbying for the abolition of depreciation for Council assets and the abolition of the Long Term Council Community Plan. That would save our city millions of dollars and we could have a rates decrease.

The concept of asset management is excellent. You put aside funds in a reserve to replace the asset when it wears out, or you spend the funds on regular maintenance so that it never wears out. Sounds great. Sensible, responsible and prudent management many would argue, but because technology is changing so fast it is a nightmare. Perhaps in the future information highways may be more important than tarseal highways. The Scottish Hall was replaced by television. The velodrome is ultimately the responsibility of the Council, but if Dunedin, Queenstown and Christchurch all built velodromes we may simply not replace the asset.