

2005/06 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 13 May 2005

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings.

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Your Submission: I wish to submit that the CCC should proceed with its financial commitment towards the development of Lake Isaac, the flat water facility planned for the area north west of ChCh Airport. The reasons for proceeding with this development are many and the only reason I've heard against the proposal is based upon one scenario (of 3 presented) in an expert report on possible bird strikes at ChCh Airport.

Our Trust has a responsibility to assist, empower, facilitate and advocate when required, for over 40 different sports in this region. The scope of this project encompasses many sports with at least 10 being direct beneficiaries of the project's completion. At present, the ability of many of these sports to provide for their existing participants, let alone plan for any growth, is greatly inhibited by the lack of a satisfactory flat water facility. In addition, the land surrounding the lake, which is a part of the gift to the city, will provide the most extraordinary resource for off road events and training which will benefit ChCh residents for centuries.

Our Trust is also responsible for promoting physical activity in general for the health and well being of the people who reside in our region.

The reasons I wish to present in favour of the Lake Isaac proposal are as follows

1. Clearly the existing facilities at Kerrs Reach are quite unsatisfactory. The river is frequently full of weed, overcrowded and now extremely unsafe at particular times of the year.

An injury accident is certain in future.

2. I understand that the CCC staff have considered alternative sites. Clearly such a site needs to be within reasonably easy reach of the main body of the population and affordable to build. Lady Isaac's donation of land to the city and the proximity of the site to ChCh city makes this offer impossible to better.

3. The donation of such a large package of land on the outskirts of the city, to the City, surely cannot be ignored. It's use will extend well beyond those of sporting endeavours.

4. The Council should consider the consequences of not proceeding with this proposal. The uses that the land could be put to, are many and varied, some of which could cause far more concern than a lake and sporting and recreational use.

5. On the elite sporting front, there is a shortage in NZ of facilities of the type planned. A number of NZ sporting organisations have said they would base their elite training squads (or at least some of them) in ChCh. Some of these have presented to the CCC already on this point. In addition, there would be a considerable market for overseas athletes in certain sports to come and train here in their northern hemisphere off season.

6. Major events could be run at Lake Isaac bringing considerable financial benefit to the city. In particular the Maardi Cup secondary school rowing regatta could be held there every 2 years and this is the largest regatta of its type in the world. In addition, as ChCh is so well linked to the world through ChCh Airport, major international events in many sports could be attracted to this facility.

	<p>7. The major problem appears to be concern about a possible increase in bird strikes yet the expert report commissioned on this topic indicated a scenario where in fact bird strikes at worst would be the same and at best would be slightly reduced. This scenario involves the essential element of all parties, including the Airport, working to manage the risks posed by birds. Bird management is an essential aspect of any project in the vicinity of the airport and would be an essential requirement. Better bird management would indeed reduce the level of current risk as well as any risk imposed by proceeding with the Lake Isaac project.</p>
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