

Contents

Introduction	2
Water Supply	6
Parks	10
City Streets	18
Wastewater	24
Land Drainage	28
Recreation Facilities	34
Making Your Opinions Heard	36



A suggestion...

The submission form inside the back cover of this document is designed to record your opinions and responses to the various options that face the Council.

We recommend you unfold the form, so that you may refer to it, and tick the appropriate boxes as you read each option.



Introduction

2

Christchurch City Council provides a number of services that keep Christchurch running smoothly and help

make the City a great place to live, work and play.

Much of the service we receive in Christchurch is taken for granted. Without it, however, quality of life would be affected and the City would be a less attractive place.

These include providing an adequate supply of fresh water to all residents, looking after parks, ensuring sewage is treated, and building and maintaining Christchurch streets.

Without these services, living, working, running a business, growing up or many of the other activities we take for granted as part of daily life would not be possible.

Being able to turn on a tap and drink clean fresh water; flushing the toilet; driving along smooth, wide, well constructed, relatively traffic-free roads; carrying out our lives without the inconvenience of flooding; taking our children to the local playground — these are some of the positive features of Christchurch that we do not often appreciate unless we travel elsewhere in New Zealand or the world.

Breathing the fresh air among tall trees in green, professionally maintained and creatively planted parks; paying just a few dollars to enjoy well tended public swimming pools; living beside clear, sparkling, slow moving rivers; taking leisure on a clean, wide stretch of sand which reaches to a fresh crashing ocean — these are some of the things that make Christchurch a truly great place to live for those with the time and opportunities to enjoy them. They are also a large part of the reason the City has become so popular with tourists.

These are the advantages which make Christchurch a unique City and contribute to its excellent reputation. Many of them result from natural features, but most have been enhanced or maintained through careful planning and management over the years.

In order to maintain the character of Christchurch and provide the services used and enjoyed by residents — services that, in many cases, have been recognised through independent assessment as among the best in the world — Christchurch City Council has built up a considerable asset base. These assets range from recreation facilities such as libraries and swimming pools to the pipes and drains that remove the City’s rainwater; from sewage treatment plants to the trees and playgrounds that enhance Christchurch’s many parks.



The total value of these assets is approximately \$2,500 million. Maintaining them costs around \$110 million every year — money which Christchurch residents pay through their annual rates bills.



Each year the Christchurch City Council assesses whether or not it is maintaining its assets at an appropriate level. Should Council provide a better service or is more spent on looking after the assets than is necessary to keep the City functioning? At the end of this assessment process, the Christchurch City Council publishes an Annual Plan. In part this plan decides, for the following year, how much Council should spend maintaining the City’s assets. By establishing how much money is required, Council can determine what rates levy to seek from Christchurch’s residents — the people who benefit most from the services these assets help to provide.



As they pay for the assets and also benefit from them, the opinions of Christchurch residents are very important to the assessment process that results each year in the City’s Annual Plan.



This book provides a broad overview of the major assets owned by the Christchurch City Council and the services these assets enable the Council to provide. In total these amount to 70—75 per cent of the total Council budget. All assets included in this review are directly owned by the Council. It does not include assets belonging to commercial enterprises



such as the Lyttelton Port Company, Southpower and other companies, which are indirectly wholly or partly owned by Christchurch ratepayers through the Council's local authority trading enterprise, Christchurch City Holdings Limited.

How much should the Christchurch City Council spend to maintain assets which serve the City's residents? How and where can these assets be enhanced in a way which will improve the services they provide?

Associated with each asset included in this book is a series of possible options for future maintenance or improvement. For each of these options there is a cost attached.

For the current year, Christchurch City Council has undertaken a major review of its assets and the service standards associated with each of them. In each case the text in the following sections of this book outlines what these options are. For quick reference, the graphs to the right of the text indicate the costs for each option. On these graphs *Lowest Possible* refers to the option which fulfils no more than the basic health standards, statutory obligations or safety requirements for the service. *Current Spend* refers to the amount budgeted for the service for 1997. *Premium* refers to the amount required to make all the possible identified improvements. *Minimum Acceptable* is the minimum standard that Councillors are prepared to accept on behalf of citizens — the basic level necessary to maintain and enhance the quality of life in the City. In some cases, but not in all, *Lowest Possible* is the same as *Minimum Acceptable*.

This book outlines the results of the review, along with the *Minimum Acceptable Service Standards* and what each asset requires to maintain or surpass these standards.

Where figures or dollar amounts are given through each section in this book, these refer to the amount currently spent to maintain a particular asset or the amount required to improve the service as detailed. Unless otherwise specified, these figures represent the proportion contributed to that particular asset or activity from an individual annual rates bill of around \$750. For ratepayers paying more than \$750, it can be assumed that all figures are proportionately higher — for those paying less, relevant figures would be lower.

In preparing the Annual Plan for 1997, the task of the Council, for each asset, is to decide which option at which cost would

best serve the City. This book explains how you can participate in the decision-making process. You can do this by completing and returning the submission form at the rear of this book. This should reflect your response to the options and assumptions that are the basis for ensuring the Council continues to deliver acceptable services.

However, you should bear in mind that substantial improvement in a wide range of services is likely to cause increases in the rates bill. Similarly, making significant savings in rates would result in lower standards of service.

As a Christchurch resident, this is your opportunity to make your opinions heard and play your part in the development of your City.

Please consider carefully which particular services you regard as most important and what level of service you are prepared to pay for.

Make your views count for the future of Christchurch.

*Make your
opinions heard
and play your
part in the
development of
your City.*



Water Supply

6

Of the average annual bill for each Christchurch ratepayer, which is around \$750, \$63.90, or just under nine per cent is currently spent on maintaining the City's fresh water supply.

Every year 55 million cubic metres of water is pumped through 1,300 km of water mains and 2,000 km

of water sub mains in Christchurch. The City's 95,000 residential and 5,800 commercial water users are supplied by 150 wells at 53 sites, eight main storage reservoirs, 37 service reservoirs and 26 secondary pump stations.

Service Options

There are four areas of service to consider in determining what standard of water supply Christchurch people wish to pay for. These are:—

Pressure and flow

Maintaining consistent pressure and flow in the City's water supply currently accounts for \$47.90 of the average individual annual rates bill. In some parts of the City, from Halswell north and west through an arc incorporating Ilam, Papanui, Harewood, Mairehau, Redwood, Belfast and Parklands, a lower water pressure was installed than in the rest of Christchurch. To increase the pressure in the north and west to a level equivalent to the rest of the City would require new pumping equipment and water mains, which would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on maintaining consistent pressure and flow through the water supply to \$72.70 every year.

Restrictions

Restrictions, such as banning the use of garden sprinklers or irrigation, are placed on the Christchurch water supply from time to time to reduce overall consumption during times of shortage. The frequency of restrictions is determined by climatic conditions and the overall reserve capacity of the City's water supply in terms of wells, pumps and pipes. Water restrictions are imposed once every ten to 15 years. At these times one in three residents are affected. To maintain this level of service accounts for \$10.00 of the average individual annual rates bill. However, with the population of Christchurch forecast to grow, the frequency of water restrictions would increase if investment is not made to improve the capacity of the water supply system. Cutting back on this investment would result in the frequency of water restrictions rising to a moderate level every one to two years, but would reduce this part of the average annual rates bill to \$6.00. To cut the frequency of restrictions to around half its current level would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer to \$18.00 every year.

Water Quality

Ensuring Christchurch water is clean, pure and of the highest quality currently accounts for \$2.00 of the average individual annual rates bill. One in 20 residents experience some colouring or sand in their water up to ten times every year. Similarly, minute levels of harmless bacteria are found in no more than one per cent of test samples. Cutting this component of the rates bill to \$1.60 would double the number of residents who experience colouring or sand in their water and double the number of positive bacteria tests. Improving the quality of Christchurch water to halve the incidence of colouring, sand and positive bacteria tests would increase the amount spent on water quality to \$2.15.

Service: Pressure and flow

Lowest possible:	\$47.90
Current Spend:	\$47.90
Premium:	\$72.70
Minimum acceptable:	\$47.90

Service: Restrictions

Lowest possible:	\$6
Current Spend:	\$10
Premium:	\$18
Minimum acceptable:	\$10

Service: Water Quality

Lowest possible:	\$1.60
Current Spend:	\$2
Premium:	\$2.15
Minimum acceptable:	\$2

Service: Reliability

Lowest possible:	\$2
Current Spend:	\$4
Premium:	\$10
Minimum acceptable:	\$4



Reliability

A number of quality control measures are in place throughout the design of the Christchurch water supply system to ensure its reliability. These account for \$4 on the average annual rates bill. Some residents can lose their water supply on average up to two or three times a year for a maximum of four hours at a time. Investing less in ensuring supply reliability would equate to these residents losing water as often as six to ten times per year for a maximum of 24 hours at a time, which would cut the reliability component of the rates bill to \$2 every year. Measures to eliminate all but one or two disruptions per year, lasting no longer than four hours at a time, would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on ensuring water supply reliability by \$10 every year.

Summary

Maintaining and enhancing the Christchurch water supply currently costs the average ratepayer around **\$63.90** every year.

To provide a service at a lower standard, with all the possible savings identified, would cut this amount back to **\$57.50**.

To make all the improvements suggested would raise this amount to **\$102.85**.

To provide a service consistent with the Minimum Acceptable Standards decided by Council would cost **\$63.90**.

Summary of the costs of Water Supply

Lowest possible...	\$57.50
Current...	\$63.90
Premium...	\$102.85
Minimum acceptable...	\$63.90

What do you think?

If you wish to make a submission on the 1998 Annual Plan, these are some of the questions you might like to consider:

- What do you regard as most important in the Christchurch water supply: pressure and flow, fewer restrictions, water quality or reliability?
- Are you prepared to pay higher rates to improve the service in any of these areas? If so, which one or which ones?
- Would you rather pay less in rates for a lower standard of service?
- Are you content that the present service at the present cost is about right?

Please fill in and return the submission form at the rear of this book to make your views known on the maintenance and development of the City's water supply.

Christchurch's water supply is one of the few in the world serving such a large population with natural, untreated water.

This service meets and surpasses international and national drinking water standards, using water direct from underground aquifers. Retaining current levels of service without chlorinating the water as the City expands requires careful management of the resource and education of Christchurch residents.

contact

If you would like further information on the service options and the cost implications facing Christchurch in relation to water supply, please contact

Bruce Henderson on

371 1324.

Parks



10

Of the average annual bill for each Christchurch ratepayer, which is around \$750, \$93.95 or just over 12 per cent, is currently spent on maintaining and developing the City's parks.

Parks play an important part in the image of Christchurch and in the quality of life for its residents.

Nearly 5,000 hectares of the City is parkland, consisting of 83 urban sports parks, 450 neighbourhood parks, 33 garden parks, 61 natural heritage and regional parks and 11 cemeteries. However, due to the complex nature of this asset it is difficult to measure the benefit of parks. From the Botanical Gardens to the multitude of sports fields throughout the City; from small neighbourhood playgrounds to the many recreational activities which take place in Hagley Park, Christchurch would certainly be a far poorer City without its abundance of parks. Looking after and enhancing these parks, by planting trees, keeping the gardens, mowing the grass and maintaining features such as toilets, pavilions, paddling pools, park furniture, car parks, paths and bridges, represents the majority of annual investment made by the City in this asset.

Service Options

There are 11 areas of service to consider in determining what standard of parks Christchurch people wish to pay for. These are:—

Turf

Caring for the 760 hectares of grass in Christchurch parks currently accounts for \$18.70 of the average individual rates bill. Maintaining a greater variation in grass length and lowering the standard of turf quality would reduce this amount to \$16.70. Improving the standard of the parks through increased mowing, irrigation and re-sowing would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on turf maintenance to \$20.70 every year. Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* is to continue at the current level, with the addition of three hectares per year of irrigation for dry areas around Christchurch, costing a total of \$19.30 per year.

Urban Sports Grounds

To provide for organised sports, one per cent of the City's 263 playing fields are currently renewed and upgraded every year and to cater for City growth two new urban sports parks are created annually. Along with maintenance, this accounts for \$6.40 of the average individual annual rates bill. To maintain these sports fields in a usable condition, at Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* it is estimated that the yearly rate of renewal would need to increase to 1.5 per cent, which would raise the cost to the average ratepayer to \$7.10. To cater for increased population growth, twice as many new sports fields are required to be constructed every year, which would further increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on urban sports parks to \$7.70.

Service: Turf

Lowest possible:	\$16.70
Current Spend:	\$18.70
Premium:	\$20.70
Minimum acceptable:	\$19.30

Service: Urban Sports Grounds

Lowest possible:	\$6.40
Current Spend:	\$6.40
Premium:	\$7.70
Minimum acceptable:	\$7.10



Gardens

Planting and maintaining the 75 hectares of gardens in Christchurch parks currently accounts for \$14.60 of the average individual rates bill. Reducing the standard of the City's gardens by planting less and reducing maintenance would cut this amount to \$13.80. Councils *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* is to apply a more consistent standard of maintenance across the gardens and upgrade them for shelter and safety. This would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on the City's gardens to \$15.20 every year. To further enhance the gardens by increasing planting in high profile areas will increase this amount to \$15.30.

Trees

Maintaining the City's stock of trees currently entails establishing 2,500 new trees, removing dangerous trees and planting 20 new streets with trees every year. This accounts for \$8.80 of the average individual annual rates bill. Reducing the number of streets planted by half would cut this amount to \$8.30 per annum. Increasing the rate of tree planting on reserves by 30 per cent, renewing and replacing woods and plantations over the next ten years and doubling the rate of street tree planting would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on trees to \$11.50 every year. Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* is to maintain the existing service, while replacing the aging woodlots and avenue trees at an annual cost of \$9.65 to each ratepayer.

Natural Areas

Certain areas and features of Christchurch have important conservation and ecological benefit. The Christchurch City Council has a role in maintaining and protecting these as part of the City's natural heritage. Including picnic grounds, beaches, forests and parts of the Port Hills, 61 parks fall into this category, amounting to 3370 hectares. Maintaining and developing these areas and undertaking the current Coast Care programme,

scheduled to run until 2001, costs around \$13.70 of the average individual annual rates bill. Council supports this, with the addition of further funding for maintenance of Coast Care work, increasing the cost to the average ratepayer to \$17. A further option is to continue Coast Care, to develop recent acquisitions such as the 112 hectare Travis wetland and maintain and develop future areas of conservation value on the Port Hills and Canterbury Plains. This option would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on maintaining and developing the City's natural areas to \$18.50 each year.

Toilets

At present two to three public toilets in Christchurch parks are replaced each year, with two new toilets built on new reserves. Along with maintenance, this programme accounts for around \$6.20 of the average annual rates bill. Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* would speed up the rate of renewal by replacing all the older style toilets to maintain the serviceability of the asset at an average annual cost to the ratepayer of \$6.80. Upgrading the newer toilets to meet building code standards, improving cleaning standards and building new toilets as pavilions with new sports grounds would further increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on toilets in parks to \$8.30 every year.

Playgrounds

Six to eight of the 261 playgrounds in Christchurch parks are currently renewed every year, while on average a further eight new playgrounds are established. Maintaining existing playgrounds and

Service: Gardens

Lowest possible:	\$13.80
Current Spend:	\$14.60
Premium:	\$15.30
Minimum acceptable:	\$15.20

Service: Trees

Lowest possible:	\$8.30
Current Spend:	\$8.80
Premium:	\$11.50
Minimum acceptable:	\$9.65

Service: Natural Areas

Lowest possible:	\$13.70
Current Spend:	\$13.70
Premium:	\$18.50
Minimum acceptable:	\$17

Service: Toilets

Lowest possible:	\$6.20
Current Spend:	\$6.20
Premium:	\$8.30
Minimum acceptable:	\$6.80

Service: Playgrounds

Lowest possible:	\$5.80
Current Spend:	\$5.80
Premium:	\$9.50
Minimum acceptable:	\$7.80



building new ones currently costs the average individual ratepayer \$5.80 each year. Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* would increase the renewal programme to a level that would sustain the asset in an acceptable condition and provide six district playgrounds and facilities for teenagers, which would increase this cost to \$7.80 per annum. Further improving the service by building a greater number of playgrounds and by providing new district playgrounds and teenage recreational facilities would raise the amount spent on playgrounds by the average ratepayer to \$9.50 every year.

Sealed Surfaces

There are currently 22.7 hectares of car parks and 98 km of pathways serving Christchurch parks, of which 17.8 hectares and 68 km respectively are sealed. The car parks are resealed on a 50 year programme while 1.8 km of new paths are built every year. This accounts for \$4 of the average individual annual rates bill. Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* would reduce the installation rate but reseat the car parks more frequently at a rate of every 16 years, and maintain pathways in a serviceable condition by resurfacing them at the faster rate of every 20 years while resurfacing the gravel paths. This would increase this amount to \$4.30 per annum. Improving the car parks and pathways to a higher standard, using chip-seal, asphaltic concrete and unit pavers where appropriate would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on upgrading pathways and car parks in the City's parks to \$7 every year.

Furniture

Providing seats, lighting, litter bins, barriers and picnic furniture in new and existing parks and reserves costs the average ratepayer around \$5.80 per annum. Cutting all further furniture installation would reduce this figure to \$5.65. Building more furniture of a higher quality through a faster rate of installation and additional maintenance would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on furniture in the parks to \$6.20 every year.

Structures

There is currently no renewal programme for footbridges, jetties and other small structures in Christchurch parks. Remedial work of this kind is carried out when safety checks reveal that it is necessary, accounting for \$1.20 of the average individual rates bill. Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* proposes a renewal programme to replace these structures which would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on this service to \$1.50 every year.

Land Acquisition

Buying land to develop into new parks currently costs the average ratepayer around \$11.20 cents every year. A reduction in the current purchase programme to a level which will ensure there are a minimum of four hectares of open space for every 1,000 people in Christchurch would cut this cost to \$7.80 cents each year. Purchasing land at a faster rate for neighbourhood parks, sports grounds, park road frontages, new cemeteries, and natural areas on the Port Hills and the Canterbury Plains would increase this amount to \$26.50 every year. Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* would continue the current programme, while purchasing additional neighbourhood reserves, wetland areas and district parks and allowing for the future purchase of land for cemeteries at an annual cost of \$15 to each ratepayer.

Service: Sealed Surfaces

Lowest possible:	\$1.55
Current Spend:	\$1.55
Premium:	\$1.70
Minimum acceptable:	\$1.60

Service: Furniture

Lowest possible:	\$5.65
Current Spend:	\$5.80
Premium:	\$6.20
Minimum acceptable:	\$5.80

Service: Structures

Lowest possible:	\$1.20
Current Spend:	\$1.20
Premium:	\$1.50
Minimum acceptable:	\$1.50

Service: Land Acquisition

Lowest possible:	\$7.80
Current Spend:	\$11.20
Premium:	\$26.50
Minimum acceptable:	\$15



Summary

Maintaining and enhancing Christchurch parks currently costs the average ratepayer around **\$93.95** every year.

To provide a service at a lower standard, with all the possible savings identified, would reduce this amount to **\$87.10**.

To make all the improvements suggested above would raise this amount to **\$127.40**.

To provide a service consistent with the Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* would cost **\$106.75**.

Summary of the costs of Parks

Lowest Possible...	\$87.10
Current...	\$93.95
Premium...	\$127.40
Minimum acceptable service...	\$106.75

What do you think?

If you wish to make a submission on the 1998 Annual Plan, these are some of the questions you might like to consider:

- How do you regard the recreational, economic and ecological benefits of the parks of Christchurch? How much do they contribute to the City's well-being, values and standard of lifestyle?
- Does the City require more parks? If so, who needs them most and what sorts of recreation should these parks provide?
- In providing services at all Christchurch parks, what should be the priorities for the Christchurch City Council — gardens, sports facilities, toilets, playgrounds, park furniture, car parking?
- Are you prepared to pay higher rates to improve the service in any of these areas? If so, which one or which ones?
- Would you rather pay less in rates for a lower standard of service?
- Are you content that the present service at the present cost is about right?

Please fill in and return the submission form at the rear of this book to make your views known on the maintenance and development of the City's parks.

Christchurch parks play an important role in the image of the City — for residents and for visitors. They provide green open spaces for relaxation and exercise, facilities for sports teams to play and practise, conservation habitat to bring nature into the City and playgrounds for families to enjoy.

Contact

If you would like further information on the service options and the cost implications facing Christchurch in relation to parks, please contact

Mark Rykers on

371 1640.



City Streets

Christchurch has a network of 1,479 km of roads, 139 bridges, associated kerbs, channels and footpaths, some 30,000 streetlights, around the same number of street signs and 140 km of cycle-ways.

Of the average annual bill for each Christchurch ratepayer, which is around \$750, \$203.10 or slightly more than one quarter, is currently spent on maintaining the City's streets.

Service Options

There are ten areas of service to consider in determining what standard of City streets Christchurch people wish to pay for. These are:—

Carriageways

Currently six km of Christchurch roads have uneven areas smoothed and 90 km of roads are resurfaced every year, using a variety of materials. This accounts for \$28.10 of the average individual annual rates bill. Resurfacing only with chip-seal, rather than with a variety of materials, would reduce this sum to \$26.80. Increasing the annual quantity of smoothing of uneven roads to 15 km and improving the quality would increase this component of the average rates bill to \$32.30 every year. Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* would continue the current service using the best quality materials on busier roads, costing on average \$28.75 per year for each ratepayer.

Kerbs and Channels

Currently 27 km of old-style wide stormwater kerb and dish channels are replaced every year, with street enhancements, such as planting of street trees and slow street facilities, carried out

where possible as part of a 24 year programme to replace all these dish channels with flat channels. This accounts for \$78 of the average individual annual rates bill. Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* is to replace all kerbs and dish channels within 24 years on a graduated programme at 22km per annum for the first five years, thereafter at 28km per annum. This would cost ratepayers an average of \$63 each year. Cutting right back to a programme of maintenance only, with no street enhancement and a 120 year programme to replace dish channels would reduce this part of the average annual rates bill to \$39. Renewing at the faster rate of 29 km of kerbs and channels per annum and moving to a 22 year programme to replace all old-style dish would increase this component of the average rates bill to \$84 every year.

Footpaths

To maintain the City's footpaths in a reasonably safe condition they are currently resurfaced every 18 years, with some new footpaths constructed. This accounts for \$16 of the average individual annual rates bill. Reducing the resurfacing rate to every 22 years, with no new construction of paths, therefore reducing the overall quality of City footpaths, would cut this component of the rates bill to \$14 every year. Improving the standard and quality of paths by resurfacing every 16 years and constructing more new paths would increase this component of the average rates bill to \$18 every year.

Street Lighting

Streetlights are currently upgraded on main roads for safety reasons, while outdated light fittings and poles are replaced. This accounts for \$24.50 of the average individual annual rates bill. Cutting right back to upgrade no streetlights for either safety or replacement would cut this component of the rates bill to \$18.90

Service: Carriageways

Lowest possible:	\$26.80
Current Spend:	\$28.10
Premium:	\$32.30
Minimum acceptable:	\$28.75

Service: Kerbs and Channels

Lowest possible:	\$39
Current Spend:	\$78
Premium:	\$84
Minimum acceptable:	\$63

Service: Footpaths

Lowest possible:	\$14
Current Spend:	\$16
Premium:	\$18
Minimum acceptable:	\$16

Service: Street Lighting

Lowest possible:	\$18.90
Current Spend:	\$24.50
Premium:	\$33.50
Minimum acceptable:	\$24.50

every year. Upgrading lighting on all main roads, replacing all outdated fittings and upgrading fittings in streets with trees would increase this part of the average annual rates bill to \$33.30.

Undergrounding

At present electricity supply lines are progressively put underground in conjunction with major roadworks. This accounts for \$11.80 of the average individual annual rates bill. Cutting this programme, so that no more electricity supply cables would be put underground, would save this part of the average individual annual rates bill. Increasing the programme to put services underground with all major roadworks, through the whole of the central business district and other commercial areas and along all major routes would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on undergrounding to \$96.60 every year.

Road Markings and Signs

At present all roads are re-marked every nine to 18 months, signs are replaced every ten years and old style street nameplates replaced over a 12 year programme. This accounts for \$5 of the average individual annual rates bill. Marking the roads at the less frequent rate of every 12 to 18 months and replacing no road signs would cut this part of the average individual annual rates bill to \$3.40. Marking the roads at the more frequent rate of every six to 12 months, replacing road signs every five years and upgrading old style street nameplates over four years would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on road markings and signs to \$8.25 every year.

Traffic Signals

Christchurch has 144 intersections controlled by traffic signals. At present traffic lights are upgraded as funding allows. This accounts for \$4.60 of the average individual annual rates bill. Cutting all upgrading would reduce this figure to \$3.60. Increasing the rate of upgrading would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on traffic lights to \$5.30 every year.

Major Construction Works

At present \$16.90 of the average individual annual rates bill is spent on major construction works to improve or upgrade Christchurch roads, work typically including road widening and intersection improvements to reduce traffic delays. Reducing construction works would increase traffic delays in City streets but would cut the amount spent by the average ratepayer on improving major roads to \$8.45 every year. Increasing the amount of major improvement work would take this amount up to \$27.70.

Neighbourhood Improvement Works

At present \$6.80 of the average individual annual rates bill is spent on improving Christchurch's neighbourhood roads, those serving a particular suburb or location. This work typically includes slow street treatments, thresholds at intersections and road humps. In addition to projects which are carried out with major construction, 30 of these projects are currently undertaken every year. Reducing the programme of neighbourhood improvement so that these projects are only carried out in conjunction with major construction works would save this amount. Increasing the amount of work to include 45 neighbourhood projects per year would raise the amount spent by the average ratepayer on controlling traffic on suburban roads to \$10.20 every year.

Safety Works

Safety education and construction work focused on improving the safety of Christchurch's roading network, including new roundabouts and speed control measures, currently costs the average ratepayer around \$4.23 every year. Cutting the safety

Service: Undergrounding

Lowest possible: \$0

Current Spend: \$11.80

Premium: \$96.60

Minimum acceptable: \$11.80

Service: Road Markings and Signs

Lowest possible: \$3.40

Current Spend: \$5

Premium: \$8.25

Minimum acceptable: \$5

Service: Traffic Signals

Lowest possible: \$3.60

Current Spend: \$4.60

Premium: \$5.30

Minimum acceptable: \$4.60

Service: Major Construction Works

Lowest possible: \$8.45

Current Spend: \$16.90

Premium: \$23.70

Minimum acceptable: \$16.90

Service: Neighbourhood Improvement Works

Lowest possible: \$0

Current Spend: \$6.80

Premium: \$10.20

Minimum acceptable: \$6.80

Service: Safety works

Lowest possible: \$2.50

Current Spend: \$11.40

Premium: \$19.70

Minimum acceptable: \$11.40



education component of this work and increasing the threshold at which such safety focused construction work is carried out would reduce this figure to 28 cents. Funding more safety projects would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on improving the safety of the road network to \$5.30 every year.

Summary

Maintaining and enhancing Christchurch City streets currently costs the average ratepayer around **\$203.10** every year.

To provide a service at a lower standard, with all the possible savings identified, would cut this amount back to **\$116.65** after ten years.

To make all the improvements suggested would raise this amount to **\$331.55**.

To provide a service consistent with Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* would cost **\$188.75**

22

Summary of the costs of City Streets

Lowest Possible...	\$116.65
Current...	\$203.10
Premium...	\$331.55
Minimum acceptable service...	\$188.75

What do you think?

If you wish to make a submission on the 1998 Annual Plan, these are some of the questions you might like to consider:

- What do you regard as most important in keeping Christchurch streets safe and easy to use: street lighting, kerbs, footpaths and channels, resurfacing, road markings, putting services underground?
- Are you prepared to pay higher rates to improve the service in any of these areas? If so, what priorities are most important?
- Would you rather pay less in rates for a lower standard of service?
- Are you content that the present service at the present cost is about right?

Please fill in and return the submission form at the rear of this book to make your views known on the maintenance and development of the City's streets.

On average 1.1 million trips are made in motor vehicles on Christchurch roads every day, a rate that is growing at 4 per cent each year. Good roads are essential for the economic welfare of Christchurch and its people. Maintaining the balance between safety and efficiency, equity and the environment — between the requirements of motorists, pedestrians and residents, is the key to an effective urban road network.

Contact

If you would like further information on the service options and the cost implications facing Christchurch in relation to City streets, please contact

Chris Kerr on

371 1671.



Wastewater

Some 150,000,000 litres of wastewater is removed from Christchurch homes, shops and business premises

every day through 1,346 km of sewer mains. It is pumped through 78 pumping stations and assisted by 1,600 flush tanks to be treated at minor treatment plants in Templeton and Belfast or at the major treatment plant in Bromley.

Of the average annual bill for each Christchurch ratepayer, which is around \$750, \$132, or just under 18 per cent, is currently spent collecting and treating the City's wastewater.

Service Options

There are three areas of service to consider in determining what standard of wastewater management Christchurch people wish to pay for. These are:—

Treatment plant

Wastewater at the main treatment plant is currently given a three-stage treatment and discharged to the Avon-Heathcote estuary over a period of five hours each high tide. Currently odour is noticeable once every ten days one km from the Bromley treatment plant. Sewage treatment accounts for \$33 of the average individual rates bill. Eliminating the final stage of treatment, allowing a continuous 24 hour discharge and stopping use of the soil filter would cut the amount spent by the average individual ratepayer on this component of the rates bill to \$30 every year. However with these changes odours would be noticed twice as often and a large proportion of effluent would not be flushed out of the estuary. Constructing a larger outfall to enable a shorter discharge time would flush more of the effluent out to sea, increasing the amount spent by the average ratepayer to improve the quality of wastewater effluent to \$32.50 every year. More thorough treatment would

improve water standards for recreation use, and reduce the occurrence of odours to once every 100 days. This would increase this component of the average individual annual rates bill to between \$52 and \$90. Council advocates this option as the *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard*. An offshore outfall would move the discharge out of the estuary, increasing this component of the average rates bill to between \$84 and \$119 every year. Yet more sophisticated treatment enabling effluent to be drunk or reused for irrigation would increase the average contribution of ratepayers to improving the quality of Wastewater effluent to \$230 every year.

Overflows

Christchurch’s wastewater system currently overflows onto private property and into streets and rivers at between 40 and 100 locations in an average annual storm. Controlling overflows to this level accounts for \$98 of the average individual annual rates bill. Reducing the stormwater flow into the system would cut these overflows to one third of their present level increasing this component of the average rates bill to \$99 every year. Overflows could be reduced to one tenth of their present level by sealing 15 per cent of the sewerage network, which would increase the annual amount spent by each ratepayer on minimising wastewater overflows to \$109. To virtually eliminate overflows — cutting them to an estimated one location every two years — by sealing 40 per cent of the network, would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on this service to \$124 every year.

Reticulation Odours

Odours from the sewerage system are currently noticeable at approximately ten Christchurch locations once every two or three weeks. Controlling them at this level accounts for \$1 of the average rates

Service: Treatment plant

Lowest possible:	\$30
Current Spend:	\$33
Premium:	\$230
Minimum acceptable:	\$52

Service: Overflows

Lowest possible:	\$98
Current Spend:	\$98
Premium:	\$124
Minimum acceptable:	\$99

Service: Reticulation Odours

Lowest possible:	\$1
Current Spend:	\$1
Premium:	\$2
Minimum acceptable:	\$2



bill. These reticulation odours could be better controlled with new soil filters. Stopping use of existing soil filters would result in odours at about 20 locations every day, reducing this part of the average annual rates bill by a few cents. Installing soil filters at the ten most troublesome spots would reduce the incidence of localised odours to once every 100 days, which would increase this component of the average rates bill to \$2 every year.

Summary

Collecting and treating the wastewater of Christchurch currently costs the average ratepayer around **\$132** every year.

To provide a service at a lower standard, with all the possible savings identified, would cut this amount back to **\$129**.

To make all the improvements suggested would raise this amount to **\$356**.

To provide a service consistent with Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* would cost **\$153**.

Summary of the costs of Wastewater Management

Lowest Possible...	\$129
Current...	\$132
Premium...	\$356
Minimum acceptable service...	\$153

What do you think?

If you wish to make a submission on the 1998 Annual Plan, these are some of the questions you might like to consider:

- What do you regard as most important in collecting and treating the wastewater of Christchurch: quality of effluent, outflows caused by groundwater and stormwater, treatment plant odours or reticulation odours?
- Are you prepared to pay higher rates to improve the service in any of these areas? If so, which areas should have the highest priority?
- Would you rather pay less in rates for a lower standard of service?
- Are you content that the present service at the present cost is about right?

Please fill in and return the submission form at the rear of this book to make your views known on the maintenance and development of the City's wastewater.

Te Huinga Manu, the Christchurch oxidation ponds, are designated as a wildlife refuge by the

Department of Internal Affairs.

Further environmental sensitivity was demonstrated recently when the Bromley treatment plant became a net provider rather than a consumer of electricity. Methane produced at the plant is now used to generate power for the plant and also to return to the national grid as surplus power.

Contact

If you would like further information on the service options and the cost implications facing Christchurch in relation to wastewater, please contact

Walter Lewthwaite on

371 1367.



Land Drainage

Christchurch's surface water environment can be categorised into two parts: a natural component and an

Of the average annual bill for each Christchurch ratepayer, which is around \$750, \$38.80 or just under five per cent, is currently spent on operation, maintenance and works on the City's natural and artificial drainage system.

artificially constructed utility system. The former, consisting of 133 km of natural waterways and 54 wetlands has economic, environmental, cultural and recreational value, as well as playing an integral part in flood protection. However, this vital asset has gradually been allowed to degrade over time, making the sustainable management of the overall surface water environment more difficult and expensive. The artificial system, built specifically to control stormwater and groundwater and protect Christchurch from flooding, consists of 138 km of utility waterways, 504 km of piped mains, 23 pumping stations, two sedimentation traps, ten retention ponds and 14 km of stop banks.

Service Options

There are four areas of service to consider in determining what standard of water environment, drainage and flood protection Christchurch people wish to pay for. These are:—

Waterways and Wetlands

Maintaining and enhancing the City’s waterways and wetlands, with some structural improvements, currently costs the average individual ratepayer \$27.10 every year. In order to upgrade all the waterways and wetlands to an environmentally sustainable condition would take a concerted 40 year improvement programme. The work would largely consist of protecting, stabilising, improving and revegetating Christchurch’s river banks and the land around them, which would increase this component of the average annual rates bill to \$31.30. Once completed, this programme would reduce the long term maintenance costs of the City’s drainage system and deliver the benefit of improved ecological, wildlife, landscape and recreational values.

Water Quality

In recent years several wet ponds have been constructed within the City’s stormwater retention basins in an attempt to replicate natural wetlands. These include ponds at Wigram and Halswell Junction Road. They were built to trap contaminants and sediments from road run off and spillages. They also provide wildlife habitat and landscape values. Maintaining these wet ponds costs 20 cents on the average individual annual rates bill. Constructing wet ponds throughout the system would be difficult due to lack of space. However a significant number could be built and would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on improving the quality of water in the natural surface water environment to \$19.50 every year. This is a new area of activity and further study is required to determine long term benefits.

Service: Waterways and wetlands

Lowest possible:	\$27.10
Current Spend:	\$27.10
Premium:	\$31.30
Minimum acceptable:	\$31.30

Service: Water quality

Lowest possible:	20 cents
Current Spend:	20 cents
Premium:	\$19.50
Minimum acceptable:	20 cents

Service: Urban drains

Lowest possible:	\$5
Current Spend:	\$5
Premium:	\$12
Minimum acceptable:	\$5

Service: Maintenance Standards

Lowest possible:	\$4
Current Spend:	\$6.50
Premium:	\$7.20
Minimum acceptable:	\$6.30



Urban Drains

Under the present regime one km of timber lined drains are to be relined and 600 metres of drains enhanced each year, accounting for \$5 of the average individual rates bill. A total overhaul of the drainage system, over 40 years, would enhance 60 per cent of all drains, pipe the 20 per cent where a nuisance must be avoided and reline the remaining 20 per cent of drains where space and capacity are important. This programme would increase this cost to around \$12.

Summary

Maintaining and enhancing the Christchurch natural surface water environment, land drainage and flood control system currently costs the average ratepayer around **\$38.80** every year.

To provide a service at a lower standard, with all the possible savings identified, would cut this amount back to **\$36.30**.

To make all the improvements suggested would raise this amount to **\$70**.

To provide a service consistent with Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standards* would cost **\$42.80**.

Maintenance Standards

To maintain the standard of the City's drains currently requires vegetation to be cut and litter removed two or three times a year, keeping the grass in the drains at a maximum height of around half a metre, at a cost of \$6.50 on the average rates bill. Reducing this standard to a single annual cutting, meaning longer grass and less tidy drains, would reduce this amount to \$4. Cutting grass in the drains six to eight times each year to keep it no longer than 150 mm would increase this component of the average rates bill to \$7.20 every year.

30

Summary of the costs of Land Drainage

Lowest Possible...	\$36.30
Current...	\$38.80
Premium...	\$70
Minimum acceptable service...	\$42.80

What do you think?

If you wish to make a submission on the 1998 Annual Plan, these are some of the questions you might like to consider:

- What do you regard as most important in the Christchurch land drainage system and surface water environment: structurally sound well presented wetlands and waterways, protection and enhancement of the natural water environment, well maintained and efficient urban and rural drains, a high standard of general water quality?
- Are you prepared to pay higher rates to improve the service in any of these areas? If so, where do you believe improvements are most urgent?
- Would you rather pay less in rates for a lower standard of service?
- Are you content that the present service at the present cost is about right?

Please fill in and return the submission form at the rear of this book to make your views known on the maintenance and development of the City's land drainage.

A ground-breaking new approach was recently adopted to managing Christchurch's surface water environment. This emphasises sustainability and the importance of integrating natural and artificial drainage systems. While elements of this approach will incur extra costs in the short term, over time sustainability will reduce costs while improving the recreational and ecological benefits of the City's waterways and wetlands.

Contact

If you would like further information on the service options and the cost implications facing Christchurch in relation to the surface water environment, land drainage and flood control, please contact

Bob Watts on

371 1393.



Recreation Facilities

Of the average annual bill for each Christchurch ratepayer, which is around \$750, \$22.05 is currently spent on operating the City's recreation facilities.

Christchurch City Council owns six major and four suburban community swimming pools and eight stadia and recreation centres. Two of the swimming pools — Jellie Park and Wharenui — are leased, while the rest are operated by the Council. QEII Park, Pioneer Stadium and the Sockburn Recreation Centre are operated by the Council, while the other stadia are leased to various sporting organisations. QEII Park is the largest of the City's recreation facilities and also the most expensive to maintain — accounting for around 63 per cent of the maintenance budget for all recreation facilities. All facilities earn some revenue, but all operate on a net loss and are therefore subsidised by ratepayer funds.

In determining what standard of recreation facilities Christchurch people wish to pay for, the following should be considered:—

Swimming Pools

Excluding the swimming pools at QEII Park, a total of 650,700 visits were made to Christchurch's nine Council operated and leased swimming pools during the most recent financial year. After taking into account revenue earned through admission

charges, operating these pools incurred a net cost to the average individual ratepayer of \$6. Planned building work to maintain the same level of service at these swimming pools would increase this cost to around \$7 in each average rates bill, assuming roughly the same number of swimmers continue to use the pools.

Service: Swimming pools

Current Spend:	\$6
Premium:	\$7
Minimum acceptable:	\$7

Stadia

Aside from QEII Park, the net cost to the average ratepayer of the City Council’s seven other stadia and recreation centres during the 1995/96 financial year was \$3.55. Assuming an equivalent use for the facilities in the future, planned building work to maintain the same level of service at these stadia would increase this cost to around \$4.10 in the average annual individual rates bill.

Service: Stadia

Current Spend:	\$3.55
Premium:	\$4.10
Minimum acceptable:	\$4.10

QEII Park

QEII Park is one of the larger assets of the Christchurch City Council. An average of 370,000 swimmers visit the pools and hydroslide each year, while the stadium is used for international athletics, major sporting events and outdoor concerts. The complex also includes a creche, squash courts, fitness centre and fun park. During the 1995/96 financial year the net cost to the average ratepayer of the QEII Park complex was \$12.90. To maintain QEII at a condition which would enable the same level of service in the future would increase this cost, on average, to \$16 every year — assuming the same level of use for the facility in the future.

Service: QEII Park

Current Spend:	\$12.90
Premium:	\$16
Minimum acceptable:	\$16



Summary

Operating Christchurch's recreation facilities currently costs the average ratepayer around **\$22.45** every year.

To undertake all the maintenance identified as necessary to continue the same level of service at these facilities will raise this amount to **\$27.10**.

To provide a service consistent with Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* would cost **\$27.10**

Summary of the costs of Recreation Facilities

Lowest Possible...	\$22.45
Current...	\$22.45
Premium...	\$27.10
Minimum acceptable service...	\$27.10

What do you think?

If you wish to make a submission on the 1998 Annual Plan, these are some of the questions you might like to consider:

- Does the City currently have the right balance of recreation facilities?
- Are you prepared to pay higher rates to improve the service provided by the City's recreation facilities? If so, how should these be improved?
- Would you rather pay less in rates for a lower standard of service?

Please fill in and return the submission form at the rear of this book to make your views known on the maintenance and development of the City's recreation facilities.

An estimated one in three Christchurch residents swim at the City Council's nine swimming pools each year. Two out of five exercise, compete or attend events at the City's seven sports facilities. These facilities all charge for their use, but running costs for each are also subsidised by ratepayers.

Contact

If you would like further information on the service options and the cost implications facing Christchurch in relation to maintaining its recreation facilities, please contact

Peter Walls on

371 1777.

Making Your Opinions Heard

Managing the assets of the Christchurch City Council

All interested people and groups have the opportunity to contribute to decisions which will affect the standard of service provided to Christchurch residents.

to suit the overall requirements of the City, as well as meeting the needs of ratepayers, requires careful balancing of numerous priorities.

In undertaking an exercise such as this, it would be possible to restrict the number of views that are heard on each issue and take decisions based on limited or no consultation. However, it is important to the City Council that all interested people and groups wishing to contribute are able to do so.

Your views on the issues raised in this booklet should play a significant part in reaching fair, sound and equitably based decisions for the ongoing and future management of Christchurch's assets. It is important that you express these views to the Council.

Having read the booklet and where necessary contacted the people named for further information, you should have reached an understanding of the decisions that have to be taken by the Council, and decided for yourself what some of these decisions should be.

We want to know. Please fill in the submission form opposite and return it — freepost — to the address provided. If you wish to express your opinions in more detail than is possible in this format, please write them down and send them to the same address.

The future of your City is in your hands. Please make sure your views are heard.