

5. CORRESPONDENCE

BUS FARES

The following letter was received from David Ellison regarding Environment Canterbury's bus fare proposals:

"I am writing, I like to think, on behalf of the elderly, the needy and in some cases the handicapped not only in Burwood/Pegasus Community Board districts but in all Christchurch, concerning the proposals of ECan to double the short-distance bus fares and to halve the present transfer time.

My friend, June Peka, who knows Yvonne Palmer well, is going to address the next meeting of the Shirley/Papanui Community Board at their next meeting on 30 April, concerning this matter, about which she shares my views and those of the many vulnerable people who would be penalised by the changes which ECan proposes to make. That Community Board's secretary, Lynne Batty, has told June that they have made a substantial submission to ECan on the subject, on many complaints which they have received concerning the price increases and the bus service generally. The purpose of this letter is to ask whether the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board would make similar submissions on behalf of the vulnerable residents of the Board's area. As you told me this morning, the next meeting of your Board will be on 14 April. There is some urgency for submissions to be made, as Evan's proposed fare structure is shortly going to put into effect. I would like to ask, therefore, whether your Board could discuss the issue on 14 April, and make representations on behalf of these bus users in time for ECan to reconsider their proposals.

You will be aware, I am sure, of the facts of this matter; in short, those whose lives depend on their ability to use the buses for shopping and other businesses face a four-fold increase in their fares. This would force them off the buses, and in consequence the Red Bus Company itself would be another loser.

I would be grateful if your Board would act on our behalf."

Chairperson's

Recommendation: For discussion.