

11. DRAFT CHRISTCHURCH CITY ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS REPORT

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee about the publication of the draft Christchurch City Environmental Trends Report.

BACKGROUND

The Monitoring and Research Team has recently published the draft Christchurch City Environmental Trends Report. This is a companion document to the draft Christchurch City Social Trends Report that was published in April this year. These reports build on the Christchurch City Update 2000 report and information on Christchurch from the Quality of Life in New Zealand's Eight Largest Cities project.

These documents were produced to contribute to several Council projects including; the Council's community mapping project, the identification of the community outcomes for the Long Term Council Community Plan and to provide an updated information for the Council's state of the environment and city plan monitoring programmes. In addition they are a valuable information resource for community representatives, decision makers and the wider community on Christchurch's social, cultural, environmental and economic trends and issues.

Some of the key environmental trends identified are listed below:

- Total urban area of Christchurch has increased by 771 ha (5%) between 1995 and 2003.
- The City's groundwater abstraction has decreased by 10.2% since 1989. Per capita abstraction has decreased 20.7%.
- Nutrients and faecal contaminants have been generally declining in the City's streams and rivers.
- Conservation areas and open space have increased by 16 and 13% respectively.
- Change from infill development to greenfield development since 1999.
- Less people are satisfied with the way Christchurch looks and feels than in 2000.
- Central City work force has increased, however the proportion of the Christchurch work force in the central city has declined slightly since 1997.
- More people are visiting the Central City for non work purposes than before.
- More people are using public transport, however car ownership has increased significantly.
- Total waste and per capita waste to the landfill have both steadily declined since 1994.
- Visitor numbers through the airport has doubled in the past 15 years.

Copies of both publications will be available for Committee members at the October 2003 meeting, and they are both available on the Councils web site at:

<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/reports/2003/EnvironmentalTrendsReport/> and
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/reports/2003/SocialTrendsReport/>

Staff

Recommendation: That this information be received

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the Committee note the above web links and that Councillors direct any questions in relation to these to the reporting officer.