

Submission on the
Christchurch City Council Community Plan,
on behalf of the

Ilam and Upper Riccarton Residents Association Inc.

Mrs. Judith Sinclair (Chair)
3 Kelson Lane, Christchurch 8004
Ph: (03) 341 8270, Fax. (03) 341 6367
E-mail: judy.sinclair@xtra.co.nz
Mr. Eckehard Bockerhoff, (Deputy Chair)
1 Hare Street, Christchurch 8004
Ph. (home): (03) 343 1058
Ph. (work): (03) 364 2949
E-mail: eckehard.bockerhoff@forestresearch.co.nz

The Ilam and Upper Riccarton Residents' Association wishes to speak about the main points of this submission at the hearings to be held between Tuesday 1 June and Friday 11 June.

Introduction

We appreciate the many good points about this plan and wish to thank the organisers for the opportunity to speak about one particular issue that concerns the residents of the above association, hereinafter referred to as the IURRA.

AIR QUALITY

In this document, there are a few references to air quality and the particular problems that Christchurch incurs during inversion temperature situations when the city exceeds the guidelines on several smoggy nights of the year, but there is no general heading and no constructive plan of ways to implement improvements in air quality. This is a disappointing omission in a document that purports to outline its objectives for a ten year period. Air pollution in the city is a major concern. The members of the IURRA can only assume that the apparent omission of any detailed plan is due to the fact that Environment Canterbury deals with this issue. However, it would have been helpful had the Council acknowledged the functions of Environment Canterbury, so that we were not left guessing.

The IURRA is opposed to the burning of coal because of the emissions of sulphur dioxide which when combined with particulate discharge are injurious to health. Therefore, we are disappointed to read (Vol 2 p.5) of the Council's support of fossil fuels ("Promoting and implementing the efficient use of fossil fuels"). We advocate the exploration of other cleaner fuels.

Housing

In the matter of existing housing, we applaud the Council's scheme "loans for warm homes" as outlined in the Council paper ("City Scene Christchurch" p 5), whereby home fires will be converted from coal burning to low emission heating, (electric, LPG, diesel, pellet fire or wood burner.) However, this scheme seems to be at variance with the Council's intention to continue to foster the use of fossil fuels as stated (vol2 p5) See above. Can you explain?

It is noted that this loan proposal which will operate in conjunction with Environment Canterbury's existing Clean Heat schemes would need "monetary support from central government". The Council should urge the government to fulfil this support. We would also like to see a more extensive education programme to advise the public of the benefits of converting from coal fires, and instruction in the correct operation of their new appliances.

The Council needs to be proactive in encouraging innovative and environmentally-sound design and technology in new home building. For example:

- the use of solar power for home heating and hot water
- double glazing

Transport

On p 17 of the document Stage 1 Summary report Metropolitan Christchurch Transport Statement, there is a list of incentive measures that the Council plans to implement to improve transport in the city, but there is no mention of controlling pollution created by the emission from vehicle exhausts.

We would like to see this included as an additional point. The Council and Environment Canterbury should investigate the technology of modifying car exhausts to minimise pollution. We are aware that certain buses in the city are already using low sulphur diesel. We would urge the Council to seek ways of making this fuel available for all vehicle users, both public and private.

Collaboration with Environment Canterbury

We are pleased to note (Volume 2 p. 16) that the Council intends to work more closely in future with Environment Canterbury on "reasonable, sensible air quality guidelines." (Other references to this co-operation are seen on pages 5 and 35). On page 102, vol 2, the Council promises to "mitigate any adverse effects on the environment and people. Inspect and follow up conditions imposed on resource consents." We applaud this policy to improve air quality and encourage the Council to make more stringent demands on Environment Canterbury

- to achieve the desired objectives in the shortest possible time
- to monitor air quality throughout the city. For example, a monitoring patrol could be set up to identify homes that produce pollution from smoking chimneys.
- to encourage schools to burn cleaner fuels rather than coal
- to seek reviews of existing consents given by Environment Canterbury so that emissions from industrial chimneys are reduced
- and to ensure that in the future the maximum length of time for a consent be reduced from 35 years to 10-15 years. This would enable the more rapid implementation of innovative technology.

Finally, the Council should set an example by finding an alternative to coal for their own heating purposes.

We look forward to cleaner and healthier air for our city.