

Christchurch City Council, Long Term Community Plan Submission

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Signature A.J.W. Lamb, Manager

Submission I do NOT wish to make a personal submission at the hearing , and ask that this written submission be considered

References

Volume 2

Page 18 Community Outlines,-“Safety of Neighbourhood and families” (third and fifth bullet points)

Page 38 City Development- “A Safe City” (Outcomes, A Safe City)

Page 42 “Civil Defence and Rural Fire Fighting” (response to an emergency).

Page 62 Democracy and Governance –“Nature and Scope” (first two bullet points)

Page 130 Water supply- “A reliable and consistent supply of water is delivered to customers” (Social performance measure)

Page 134 Water supply- “Assets for Level of Service Improvements” (reference to risk).

Page 138 Outcomes –“A Safe City” (reference to 50 year floods).

Introduction

Lifelines Groups are “voluntary organisations that act as facilitators to promote reduction (mitigation) and readiness work to be carried out by their members. Their emphasis is on educating and motivating by developing and providing best practice information. They provide a technical forum with appropriate degrees of confidentiality enabling engineering and physical risk management issues of interdependency to be addressed” (ref. Ministry Of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, Best practice Guide). Some Council staff are members of the Christchurch Group.

The need for ongoing Engineering Lifelines work

With initial work carried out in 1993/94, the Christchurch Engineering Lifelines Group was the first in New Zealand that investigated the effects of a range of natural hazards on engineering infrastructure. The report of this work has become a model for many other Lifelines Projects throughout New Zealand and now is particularly important because Lifelines Groups are given a special status through the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002.

The Council has been committed to ongoing work and it is essential that this continue. This submission is an endeavour to assist in documenting the Engineering Lifeline principles/activities so that the benefit of previous work will not be lost with staff changes and as part of the management of the Council's infrastructure, to try to ensure an ongoing commitment to Engineering Lifelines work.

Engineering Lifelines work is only part of the risk management work of the Council but deals particularly with the maintenance and improvement of the physical and service infrastructure of the City which is part of the outcomes in the draft LTCCP.

It is not for the Christchurch Engineering Lifelines Group to suggest the precise way in which the issues should be addressed in the Council's LTCCP, but it does seem that the form of the draft LTCCP does not easily allow for the issues to be addressed in any detail. They should however be referred to, as a bare minimum, by reference to Asset Management Plans.

Other Councils

Since the various references to what could be said to be risk-related matters are very general and do not give any detailed information on what work is proposed, I have endeavoured to search other Councils' LTCCPs as listed in the various Council's websites and two examples may be of assistance-

Timaru District Council refers to the intention to implement a risk management approach to water supply in general and refers to engineering lifelines work.

Palmerston North City Council in their water asset management plan summary referred to in their LTCCP does include a brief section on risk as follows-

“PNCC uses a risk management process consistent with Australian/NZ Standard AS/NZ 4360 to identify specific risks associated with the ownership and management of water assets. The selection criteria for prioritising and programming capital works is based on a consideration of risk and benefits, affordability, existing performance with respect to levels of service and life cycle costs and efficiency. The management practices and works programmes detailed in the asset management plan address all current significant risks.”

The statement in the last sentence is very definite and it is a brave Council that is prepared to be so specific in its documentation but an attempt should be made in the Christchurch City Council's Asset Management Plans to adopt an all hazards/risk approach (c.f. requirements of the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002).

Civil Defence and Emergency Management

There is one related matter referred to on Page 42 "Civil Defence and Rural Fire Fighting". The implication is that Civil Defence deals with response to emergencies only but not mitigating the hazards that cause them. This is not the case as the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002 emphasises that the four "Rs", Reduction, Readiness, Response and Recovery have to be considered. It should be noted that "Canterbury Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group" is the correct term not "Canterbury Combined Civil Defence Organisation". The Christchurch Engineering Lifelines Group is represented by its Manager on various committees and the Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) of the Canterbury Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group.

Submission

It is submitted that the Christchurch City Council LTCCP should include a general section on risk management as practised, or proposed to be practised by the Council, in that risk is inherent in nearly all processes that affect the community outcomes facilitated by Council work. In particular, there should be a section dealing with the ongoing work in infrastructure management with reference to the associated engineering lifelines activities.

It may be that just as the Council has policies for many of its other activities it should include a Risk Management Policy in the LTCCP.

4 May 2004