

LTCCP Submission

1. Submission - Flat Water Sports Facility (Vol. 1 pages 35-38 & 67)

- I support the Council's proposal to construct or contribute to the construction of a flat water sports facility but seek to have an associated white water kayaking / rafting facility also constructed.

Alternatively,

- I oppose the proposal to construct a flat water sports facility in favour of the construction a dedicated white water sports facility.

2. Relief Sought

That the Council consider the provision of a white water sports facility in conjunction with or instead of the proposed flat water sports facility.

3. Reasons for these Submissions

Necessity for Additional Facilities

I understand from the LTCCP (Vol. 1 pages 35-38) that the growing numbers involved in flat water sports may be stretching the existing facilities. To my knowledge there are no white water facilities within the Christchurch Metropolitan area at all, as opposed to over-used facilities. Indeed the nearest consistently flowing white water 'facility' is the Hurunui River which is roughly two hours drive north of Christchurch. As such, there is an even stronger need to provide white water facilities for kayakers, rafters and multi sport eventers. In my opinion the justification for a white water facility exceeds that for a flat water facility.

Numbers in the Sport

I understand from the LTCCP (Vol. 1 pages 35-38) that approximately 800 registered rowers and school pupils use Kerr's Reach for flat water sports. Dragon boaters and other multi sport kayakers are in addition to this. I understand that there is a comparable number of white water kayakers / rafters / sledgers in Christchurch who have no suitable facilities to use within Christchurch. See below for a breakdown of the potential users of a white water facility. As such, there is sufficient justification for a dedicated white water sports facility in terms of potential users.

Potential Users of a White Water Facility

Casual kayakers (ie not club members)
Kayak clubs

International visitors
National visitors
Schools (ie as part of outdoor education classes)
Outward bound type courses
The Polytechnic (i.e. the White water instruction classes)
Multi Sport eventers
Grading Certificates for Multi Sport events
Casual Rafters
Rafting clubs
Rafting Companies for fee paying clients
Rafting courses
White water Sledging
Corporate bonding events
Corporate challenges

Competitions

As there is no comparable facility in New Zealand a dedicated white water sports facility would become the home of New Zealand's National Champs and could also host international events.

Potential Benefits to Christchurch and White Water Sports

A dedicated white water sports facility (either on its own or in conjunction with a or a flat water sports facility) would become a point of difference for Christchurch, acting as a draw card to the city for both visitors and locals. This would benefit the City and the wider region economically. Christchurch would become the national centre for rafting / kayaking and multisport events. Such a facility would reinforce and support the existing kayaking schools / courses in Christchurch.

An artificial course has consistent flows (ie is not rain dependent) and can be used all year round, not just in summer. The venue can even be lit and used in the evenings after work. The environment would be a controlled and monitored environment for increased safety, thereby allowing more people to get into white water sports and at a younger age. Such a facility will increased acceptance, visibility and status of these sports in New Zealand.

I note that, unlike a flat water sports facility, a dedicated standalone white water sports facility would not attract birds and as such would not exacerbate the potential for bird strike at the Christchurch International Airport.

Construction Costs

I understand that the Olympic white water facility at Penrith New South Wales would cost approximately \$10 million to build today (it cost approximately AUD\$6 million when built in 1999). The following is a link to the artificial white water course in Penrith which was built for the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

<http://www.penrithwhitewater.com.au/>

The City Council has budgeted \$11 million in the LTCCP (Vol 1 page 38 & 67). A dedicated white water facility could be built instead of a flat water sports facility. A combined sports facility would presumably cost approximately \$10 million plus \$15 million (cost as stated in LTCCP for the flat water course).

Additional funding sources could be sponsorship, such as from Speights Beer (associated with the Coast to Coast race), electricity companies (associated with hydro schemes), CDC and national government.

Income

Income to maintain and operate the facility could be derived from private paying customers, rafting companies, schools, tertiary institutions, clubs, corporates, championship events, advertising and an associated shop and café.

4. I wish to be heard in support of this submission.



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05/05/04

5. Address for Service:

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