

Our Community Plan Christchurch O-Tautahi 2004/14 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 6 May 2004

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings.

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Your Submission: re proposed flat water sport venue
support for Lake Isaac & proposed location
Page 35 CCC Draft Plan

Please see attached submission & supporting document.

e-mailed to ccc-plan@ccc.govt.nz

Your Submission (2): CCC Submission re flat water sport facility

Christchurch desperately needs a safe flat water facility to replace the dangerous and overcrowded Kerrs Reach. The Diana Isaac Wildlife Trust has made land available for such a facility and the Lake Isaac Trust has come to the CCC with this valuable land in hand seeking finance for it's development into a watersport lake. This financial support has been recommended by the CCC but the location stalled by a perceived bird strike airport risk. The report commissioned by the CIAL clearly identified a current bird population which is now being interpreted by the CIAL and opponents of the lake as a future risk. The birds are at the airport now, note the published comments of the CCC ornithologist in the Christchurch Mail on Wednesday 21 April , they are there because a CCC-provided food source, the landfill, attracts them. Councillor O'Rourke is to be commended for the airport protection provided by the Kate Valley scheme, by the time a lake is excavated the food source will be 50 km north of the airport and common sense dictates that the birds will follow the food supply.

CIAL also object on the grounds of a 1.7 km proximity of the closest point of the proposed lake to the airport. Invercargill, Queenstown, Wellington, Rotorua, Taupo and Auckland are just some NZ airports that handle jet aircraft within a closer proximity than 1.7km. to a water body. An existing lake within the CIAL airport boundary apparently causes no concern. Blame transfer by CIAL shrouds the fact that a bird mitigation policy is not being vigorously pursued at ChCh airport. Indeed the proposed Lake Isaac will enable bird control to be extended beyond the airport boundaries and over the lake and it's surrounds to further minimize risk in aircraft approaches.

Nuisance birds have proliferated within the city boundaries and a CCC-delegated committee charged with developing a city-wide bird management strategy has done nothing in nearly a year. As any head lease of the land is likely to be vested in the CCC an airport-specific bird management and mitigation policy can be freely pursued over a greater area to ensure a safer airport than currently exists.

**Your Submission (2)
(Cont'd):**

Proper management of a Kate Valley -inspired diminishing bird population will ensure that ChCh Airport falls within similar parameters as other airports near water world-wide. At the same time CIAL will enjoy a protective buffer zone established by the lake and environs that will ensure resident unrest never causes a cessation of nighttime operation, a fate that has befallen Auckland and Wellington airports.

Lake Isaac is in the right location, other benefits such as flood protection for the City will flow from it's construction to truly give a triple bottom line return in recreation, safety and life quality for a multiplicity of users as well as an economic return to the region.

BIRD PROFILE



Black-backed Gull

The Black-backed Gull (*Larus dominicanus*) is the largest of the three species of gull found in New Zealand and a common bird throughout the Christchurch area. The adult weighs up to 1.05 kg and has a distinctive black and white plumage with greenish-yellow legs and yellow bill, tipped with orange. Juveniles have an all over brownish plumage and dark bill which makes them easy to mistake for a hawk at a distance. Young birds go through two years of transitional immature plumages (a browner version of the adult colouration but with a dark tip to the tail) before assuming the adult plumage pattern at four years of age.

The Black-backed Gull is a very adaptable bird, as much at home on the seashore as it is on playing fields, farm paddocks and high country valleys. Unfortunately its adaptability can also cause it to become a nuisance bird, particularly at rubbish dumps and pig farms. It has an omnivorous diet, including shellfish, marine invertebrates, earthworms, carrion, discarded human foodstuffs and the eggs and young of other birds.

With a local peak population of 10,000 birds, this gull is the second most abundant waterbird in the Christchurch area, second only to the Mallard duck. Almost all of these birds breed or night roost on the Waimakariri Riverbed upstream from Coutts Island. At sunrise and at dusk these birds fly between the riverbed and their feeding grounds located along the Pegasus Bay coastline, including the Burwood landfill, Brooklands Lagoon and the Avon-Heathcote Estuary. The route used by the birds crosses the northern approaches of Christchurch International Airport which makes them the number one birdstrike risk species for aircraft using the airport.

— Andrew Crossland

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