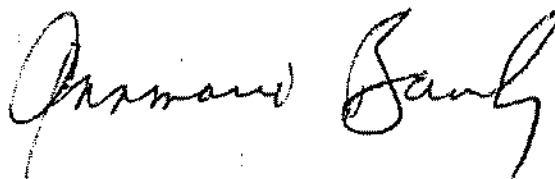


Submission on the Draft LTCCP, 6 May 2004

From:

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✓ I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Tuesday 1 June and Friday 11 June 2004.

Dear friend,

Thank you for inviting public comment on our draft Christchurch Community Plan (CCP-what you call the LTCCP). I just paid my rates, so I can appreciate how important public involvement is. What I want the Council to consider is outlined as follows, and includes what specific action I want the Council to take, and why (volume, page).

1. I do not support the use of public rates to build a Flat Water Recreation Facility (Vol 1, pg 29) at this time. I would like the Council to generate more debate and enthusiasm for this project over the next 2 years, including exploration of other fundraising options such as private investors/sponsorship and public events. I consider Option 2a allocating far too much "grant" money. If the next 2 years were instead "spent" garnering public and private support, then the cost would be 90% less (and 100% more fun). The Flat Water Recreation Facility is a Nice to Have (if you have disposable time, disposable income, and youthful vigor) but certainly not a public good (particularly since the Christchurch population is aging). Would it also provide habitat for birds? Or a needed water reservoir? Could it be the final holding tank for Christchurch's waste water (rather than disposing of it by sending it out into the sea?) which is then dropped into a hydro-generating plant? *Lots of creative options remain unexplored.*
2. Regarding any expenditure on capital buildings, and in particular, the new Civic building and swimming facilities, I want the Council to insist that the final structure is efficient in its energy consumption, taking full advantage of passive solar design and modern technology. Beckenham Service Centre is a good example – and I know we can do even better. The public should not have to pay for heating another pretty box like the Art Gallery.
3. Regarding the waste water outfall, long-term planning should think beyond 10 years – try 100 years. Is there a treatment standard that can render the water drinkable? I would like to see a heavy tax placed on all soaps that contain phosphate, and a subsidy put on a city-approved alternative soap. Greywater system standards need to be developed, and rainwater catchments built.

4. I would like the Council to develop a policy on Genetic Modification and consider the need to protect the city residents from possible contamination and destruction of our organic future.
5. The MCTS allocates too much money to Roads. I think the Council should take a daring lead in innovation, and adopt creative demand side alternatives. The city centre should be closed to automobiles, with doubling the free shuttle buses and skate-board parks (to keep the youth mobile without motors), and consider a light rail system using NZ's superconductor technology. I support the use of heavy road taxes to get people to stop driving (less tax on essential goods and services). I would like the Council to cut the proposed annual budget for new Roads by HALF, and distribute this into more cycleways, pedestrians, planning, passenger transport, and a new central city plan that limits access to private autos.
6. "Storms Clouds Gathering" (MCTS, pg 11) fails to state the obvious possibility that transportation prices will rise as petroleum goes scarce (see [www.OilCrash.com](http://www.OilCrash.com)). Peak oil is a reality that New Zealand and all its cities will have to face – the world's oil reserves are overstated and we are either at or near Hubbard's prediction for Peak supply, which gives us 20 years or so to get our act together... I think those roads will be a dandy cycle paths for my grandchildren!
7. Projects such as the Little River Railway-Cycle conversion is a public good, and should be part of/link up to the MCTS. I would like to see major spending in cycling pathways like this throughout the Christchurch area, even to the extent of closing roads to automobile traffic. Cycling paths that share roads with cars are not safe transport or sustainable. Also, bikes built for transport (like in Holland) rather than road racing or mountain climbing should be imported for CCC staff.
8. The solid waste management plan is great! Well done. The Council would benefit greatly to develop formal ties and subsidized training programs with Community Groups that promote home-based kitchen waste disposal systems. For example, the Christchurch branch of Soil and Health, which has been going for 60 years, could use some Council money to get real training happening. I would like my rates purchase 15 or more worm digester units (RMF style, or fancy) that are proudly and loudly displayed, perhaps one per Community Garden. The subsidized training programs (via the social clubs like S&H, Good Gardeners, Community Gardens, KEGS) could all be part of a new business unit e.g. "Worms for Canterbury". All council events should be zero waste events, and use sugarcane starch-based products. I would like to see the business sector (rather than domestic) be charged more for their waste disposal as an incentive for them to clean up their own business. Also, I think the public would respond well to such training initiatives if there was something in it for them, like movie coupons or bus fare or food – incentives will go a long way in changing behaviors.

Thanks,  
Annmarie Banchy

