

SUBMISSION

to

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

on the

DRAFT COMMUNITY PLAN

**NGAHERE STREET, FENDALTON –
SUGGESTED UPGRADE**

SUBMITTED BY:

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

SIGNATURE:

James Dawson

ISSUE: NGAHERE ST - UPGRADE

As a resident of Ngahere Street, which is a high rating area, I would like an explanation as to why all other streets in the immediate vicinity have been upgraded with the exception of Ngahere Street.

GENERAL: Riccarton Bush is an area of unique historical importance and is preserved by Trustees in accordance with the Riccarton Bush Amendment Act 1947. The Council also has a management role. Riccarton House is a tourist attraction as is the bush; it is also a café and an area for various gatherings. The eastern entrance from Kahu Road has been beautifully enhanced while Ngahere Street, the western entrance, has been ignored.

Ngahere Street was formed after subdivision of land purchased from the Deans Estate in 1947. It has become an alternative parking for those visiting Riccarton House and Bush. It is also THE OFFICIAL CYCLEWAY exiting from Ngahere Street, by way of the walkway to and from Riccarton House and through to Kahu Road.

SITUATION: NGAHERE STREET HAS NOT BEEN UPGRADED IN THE PAST 50 YEARS.

When Totara Street was realigned in 2002-2004 residents believed that Ngahere Street would be a continuation of that upgrade. The intersection can now only be described as a bottleneck. Motorists are inclined to park away from the high 15 inch kerbing and channeling to avoid door contact, so it becomes a virtual one way street. On the footpath pedestrians are confronted by wooden power poles impeding their way while cyclists follow a direct route down the middle of the roadway in line with the centrally located

entry into the walkway to Riccarton House. Conversely, a number of cyclists exiting the walkway/cycleway hurtle through the narrow opening into the middle of the cul de sac where motorists are focused on turning.

Is it the street formation which causes this behaviour?

SOLUTION: It is respectfully suggested that the entire geography of Ngahere Street should be altered/upgraded in line with the increased usage. That usage should in my view be further encouraged. It is realised that this would involve drainage, stormwater, channeling, culverts, underground power supply, road way and footpath reformation.

Another suggestion is to form a small island in the head of the cul de sac which would encourage users to keep to the left.

An opening up of the Ngahere Street entrance to Riccarton Bush is another consideration to give clear vision down the street and beyond.

What is envisaged is an open, visible street environment giving clear view to vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians alike.

CONCLUSION: I am confident that the Christchurch City Council has such expertise within its ranks to solve this problem of street function and aesthetic compliance which is compatible with the Riccarton Bush activity, Christchurch streets safety issues and the general Christchurch City image. Many residents in Ngahere Street have similar views to those outlined above.

The attached photographs reinforce my views.



