

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:

My submission is about air quality.

The quality of air in Christchurch is recognized in the Community Plan, yet the ways of achieving this outcome are described quite vaguely: " Working with relevant authorities to monitor and improve air quality within the City".

I happen to live in the area affected by industrial air pollution and my dealings with Environment Canterbury (which is probably the "relevant authority") proved that Ecan is not very efficient in dealings with such a problems. The Woolston industrial area is VERY affected by fumes, smells and smoke coming from at least three major sources: Skellerup, GIB, New Zealand Foam and Latex, maybe some others too. There are places where exhausts of these companies are quite noticeable and one would not enjoy staying outside, and there are residential properties, schools, parks and playgrounds in the affected area.

This issue quite considerably affects life of people living in Opawa-Woolson area and yet there is no evidence that it will be solved without some extra effort from community, City Council, Ecan and factories themselves.

My suggestions are:

1. City Council is NOT currently actively involved in the dealings with air pollution caused by industry - any inquiries are forwarded to Environment Canterbury. This should be changed.
2. Resource consents issued by Ecan are quite vague in description of quality of air exhausted and has a position that could be summarized as: "It is hard to trace, we cannot get enough evidence, we are working on it" - which is unacceptable and does not solve any problems.
3. There is a need for proper investigation and analysis of companies causing air pollution (not only in Woolston but city-wide), which should include close collaboration with affected communities.
4. City Council should promote the idea of ecologically clean, smoke and odor free air discharge between companies located in Christchurch, which currently have absolutely no stimulus to keep air clean. This can include (but not be limited to): benefits for the companies which would install fumes and dust control system; help in installation of such a systems; more strict approach to those who cause air pollution thus braking the conditions of their resource consents.
5. Analysis of data accumulated by Ecan's Pollution Hotline should be performed (something that Ecan does not seem to do), areas affected by air pollution located and ways of improving of the situation - found.

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

6. Railway that runs through the heart of the city causes some amount of air pollution too - there should be an investigation of quality of air discharged by some engines (some of them seem to be really old!) and also ways to improve situation with coal dust should be found (I believe City Council is amongst the stakeholders of the company which moves quite big amount of coal through the City using railways).
7. Maybe not that important, but - the view from the Gondola is dominated by smoking chimneys. 20-th century approach "Let's build a higher stake and wind will take care of it" is definitely a contradiction with more than only air quality principle of our Community Plan or any principle of ecologically clean, green, economical approach that is adopted as the future for this country.

To conclude: some industrial enterprises in Christchurch are using older technology and thus exhaust polluted air of poor quality. This situation should be improved by: active monitoring of air quality; advocacy of ecologically-clean processes and installation of fumes, dust and smoke control systems; benefits for companies improving the quality of air discharge and more strict approach to the ones who are not; close cooperation between Christchurch city council, Ecan, community and industry; investigation of the data from Ecan's Pollution Hotline and active tracing of the sources of pollution; better recognition of this problem by CCC and Ecans officials.

With very best regards,
Ivan Shevchuk