

# LTCCP 2006-16 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 5 May 2006

I wish to talk to the main points in my submission at the hearings to be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006.

I am completing this submission:

For yourself

Number of people you represent:

My submission refers to:

Full Version of the LTCCP

Page Number:

I also want to respond to:

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self

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Your Submission:

**Do you have any comments on the major projects in our Draft Community Plan?**

Habitat "restoration" is big business around the world. This submission points out the cost to biodiversity of well-meaning efforts at restoration by CCC after one of my students and I monitored mesofaunal losses during "restoration" at a site near the Avon-Heathcote Estuary (Samoan church).

The assumption by the perpetrators of the "restoration" seemed to be that invertebrates can be ignored because they are not seen by "normal" people and few specialists work on mesofauna so they are probably of no matter anyway. Many dismiss the invertebrates because they believe they will recover or invade a site if they are exterminated during development of the site. These views are common in the Christchurch City Council.

It is the writer's view, supported by literature, that loss of species accumulates with successive interferences with natural systems. Fostering natural (ecological) processes in restorations is likely to result in functioning communities and ecosystems. Using a digger, a truck of CCC compost and a load of plants from a nursery will give us just that. The native plants in the Council's Nursery must find a home - the cryptozoics (native animals) got trucked off to landfill.

This is a recipe for a functioning council; "nice" amenity plantings but the death of functioning communities on the estuary banks. In this study, weeds provided a structured habitat for many native invertebrates - a functioning community existed even though it was hardly pristine.

Sustainable ecological restoration demands diverse management tailored to each site. One way to get the diversity of approach is to engage a diversity of disciplines and people.

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

ON 21 May 2004, I had the following mail to let me know we are not alone in this matter:

Mr Clark,

Your note on preservation of soil fauna had interesting timing. I am beginning the process of developing in-house specifications for contracting restoration work. The majority of grading contractors in our region (lowland Puget Sound) likely spend most of their time preparing parking lot and road subgrade (level, smooth, compact to 95%), and so our restoration sites sometimes end up being similar in character.

Paul R. Cereghino  
Restoration Ecologist  
-:-:-:-:-  
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Damage Assessment and Restoration Center  
Community-based Restoration Program  
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**Do you have any comments on groups of activities (The activities and services the Council provides?)**

libraries are great. God for a literate and functioning community.

**Do you have any other comments or suggestions you want to make?**

Get advice from a range of biologists when doing our "restoration thing" It's not just the bushes and the birds which make the biota. As we sow ...