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Submission to the Christchurch City Council draft Long Term Council Community Plan

By

The South-East Aquatics Action Group

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Our group wishes to speak to its submission at the LTCCP hearings meetings.

We wish to thank the Council for the opportunity to make this submission to the LTCCP relating to the Aquatics Facility Plan.

South-East Aquatics Action is a group of concerned organisations and ratepayers who feel very strongly that the Aquatics Facilities Strategy has not and will not deliver much needed recreational and social infrastructure to the South-eastern suburbs within the period of the LTCCP and beyond.

Our group wishes to acknowledge the excellent work the Hagley-Ferrymead Community Board has done in lobbying Council for an aquatics/dry facility in our area and we are most disappointed that the Board's recommendations have not received recognition by the Council.

The draft plan sets out the following recommendations

Negotiate land and support partnership with Papanui High School and Northlands Mall for an aquatic facility and school gym at Papanui High 2006/7 to 2007/8

Add a children's shallow pool to existing Pioneer facility 2008/9 to 2009/10

Develop new area facility in the Hornby or Halswell area   2015/16 to 2017/18

Develop new area facility in Linwood or Woolston area, **or retention of Aquagym**
2017/18 to 2019/2020

We believe the draft Aquatics plan is flawed and inequitable because:

- The plan allocates priority to a facility in the Papanui area which is the immediate neighbouring suburb of Burnside, which has already a major anchor aquatic facility, Jellie Park. Where is the rationale in this decision? A facility built so close to Jellie Park will obviously have a heavy impact on the patronage of this facility.

- Where is the ratepayer equity when the residents of the suburbs of Sumner, Redcliffs, Mt Pleasant, Heathcote, Woolston, East Linwood, Bromley and Lyttelton must travel long distances to the nearest facility for the next ten years + when residents in the North already have easy and direct assess to both major anchor facilities, Jellie Park and QEII?

- We disagree with the parameters used in this study which we understand were 3kms for QEII but only 2km for Jellie Park. This does not give an accurate picture for any of the criteria tested.

- The decision not to have a facility in the South-east within the next ten plus years clearly does not address the unmet recreational and social needs of the South –East. This part of Christchurch contains an area of high social deprivation which is recognized both locally and nationally.

- The decision to build a pool at Papanui appears to be driven by Papanui High School's desire to do something with its land. If the Council is concerned about keeping this land available for use in the future, then purchase and land banking is a possible solution. This situation does not make Papanui the most deserving case for the next facility to be developed. This is a separate issue.

- The Plan ignores the fact that the Linwood proposal has land available now for use.
- It ignores that we have major possible partners such as Linwood Rugby League and the Eastgate Mall.

- The Plan has erroneously and unfairly taken in account Aquagym which is a private provider which:
- Does not provide recreational swimming for our community
- Is very distant from the majority of our community
- Draws its patronage from all over the city.
- Is operating at capacity level already.

- We also believe the plan is very short-sighted from a sustainability perspective. The residents of the South-east are being expected to travel long distances by car or by bus to reach their nearest aquatic facility. With a forecasted shortage of oil in the next ten to twenty years it may prove to be impossible for communities to meet their recreation needs in this way. The Council should be planning urban villages now which will be able to provide recreational facilities locally for community use.