

LTCCP 2006-16 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 5 May 2006

I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this submission be considered.

I am completing this submission:
For yourself

Number of people you represent:

My submission refers to:
Summary Version of the LTCCP

Page Number:

I also want to respond to:

Name: Esther de Laat

Organisation:

Daytime Phone: 3870 574

Evening Phone:

Email:

Address: 10B Sequoia Place
Queenspark
Christchurch 8009

Your Submission:

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

Please note that all comments refer to draft summary plan.

Essential Projects Page 4: New Bus Exchange: completely disagree with this type of spending. The bus exchange can remain where it is, but further spending for a bus facility should be away from centre of the city. Presently there are too many buses, too many people loitering in front of buildings increasing litter etc. Walking past as all the buses pass through, city, I notice excessive exhaust pollution, and congestion. Have read recently in the newspaper that the council was thinking of creating dedicated bus lanes in peak hour. This is essential and needs to go ahead. Further to that, the council needs to reinstate rail transport and be vigilant in heading towards this. The lines are in place. If \$59 million was spent on that, I would not have a problem. But to spend a further \$59 million on the bus exchange is throwing good money after bad.

Fit out for new civic offices: \$4.3 million. I understand from an employee that the offices are pretty bad, but do find this spending of \$4.3 million excessive. \$1 million should suffice. New carpet & paint is plenty.

Discretionary Priority Projects: Botanic Gardens \$11.1 million. Spending on necessities is OK. But this is a luxury the city cannot afford. A new house to build costs approx \$200k. Even a more luxury home might cost \$500k. That is more than enough to spend on a new visitor centre.

Page 8: No libraries should be closed. We have just received a new library in Parklands which our family utilises at least weekly. It is a fantastic place, and we are very grateful for it. As a new mother, I have found it an invaluable resource, and would love to see this available in all suburbs of Christchurch.

The savings made on closing the pools is insignificant. Just don't spend as much on redeveloping Jellie Park (\$59 million Pg 15) Again swimming pools are a great place for families to meet.

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

Transport page 18: Buses will not see this city through for the next 10 years. Before it is too late, a rail system needs to be brought back into use. There are far too many cars on the road between peak times, which means they are all commuters. How can Christchurch help reduce emissions with the amount of people we have driving to and from work each day, and most cars only containing one person. Rail will reduce congestion, and long term will benefit the city, with buses supplementing on routes where rail does not reach.

Do you have any comments on groups of activities (The activities and services the Council provides?)

My comments in this field do not refer to specific pages in draft plans, but The Summertime activities provided by the council are fantastic, and a brilliant way of getting the community together. If cut back in spending needs to be achieved, why not cut back on the number of firework evenings to say 2 per year. This would save considerable funds.

Also, the first hour free parking within the city in most parking buildings is a brilliant way of bringing people in. As all mall carparking is free, the city needs all incentives it can get to bring people in.

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

Rates increases are only justified of infrastructure spending, eg transport, waste. Concentrate on building a rail system that commuters will use. That will make Christchurch a pioneering city.