

# 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:  
Full Version of the LTCCP

Page Number:  
44, 137, 120-135

I also want to respond to:

Name: Shelley McMurtrie

Organisation:

Daytime Phone: 377 6677

Evening Phone:

Email:

Address: Unit 3  
454 Madras Street  
St Albans  
Christchurch

Your Submission:

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

Page 44

My comments relate to the Community Outcome highlighted on page 44 of the full version - A City of People who Value and Protect the Natural Environment. One of the yardsticks for measuring this Community Outcome is, 'when biodiversity is restored, protected, and enhanced'. My comments relate to how this might be achieved, specifically the biodiversity of our waterways (i.e., both aquatic and terrestrial values). I certainly support the continued restoration, protection, and enhancement of our city's waterways; they represent one of the most extensive waterway networks in a New Zealand city. However, in order to achieve this 'biodiversity' objective, I believe our waterways require a more overarching and holistic view to their restoration, preservation, and enhancement.

An expectation put on our current and future urban areas is that they will be able to create and maintain sustainable biodiversity. However, it is clear that the current method of urbanisation is not going to meet this expectation for waterways, and in existing urban areas, it is sometimes difficult to reverse the overarching impacts of urbanisation on them (i.e., through stormwater contamination, habitat fragmentation, increased disturbance regimes). While the naturalisation of existing urbanised waterways remains an important consideration, especially for community education and biological values, we cannot expect that we will be able to fully restore them to their pre-urban biodiversity. I believe we have a greater chance of success by protecting, and even enhancing, those waterways in areas that are not yet developed, and which may be up for future urbanisation. To ensure the restoration, protection and enhancement of these waterways, there are a number of aspects I feel need to be considered.

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

1) If we are serious about a sustainable city, and therefore sustainable biodiversity of our waterways, we need to modify the way we urbanise a catchment. Low Impact Design is being heralded as the way to lessen the impacts of urbanisation on natural systems. The aim is to maintain, as much as possible, a watershed's natural or pre-urban hydrology, otherwise known as hydrological neutrality. This can be achieved through minimizing the use of impervious surfaces (e.g. by using permeable pavements, green roofs, soakage basins for stormwater, rainwater tanks) and removing any direct stormwater discharges into streams (e.g., by directing all stormwater to treatment systems, like detention basins and wetlands, before discharging into a stream). As an example, I would like to highlight one aspect of modern urbanisation. Houses are taking up proportionally larger areas within property boundaries. Therefore, roof area is becoming a significant portion of the impervious area within new developments. I believe considerable benefit could be attained through the use of rainwater tanks to collect rainwater from roofs. This would lessen the loads on stormwater systems and allow rainwater to soak into the ground via watering gardens, etc. In my opinion this means decreased disturbance regimes and natural recharge which all contributes positively to the sustainable biodiversity of our waterways.

2) Being more stringent on site sediment control standards for construction sites.

3) For waterways that have especially high existing values that are not already urbanised, I believe the best method to achieve sustainable biodiversity is to direct urban development away to already compromised areas. Waterways in Christchurch that have the highest instream values for biodiversity and aquatic ecology are, in decreasing order of values, the Otukaikino catchment (i.e., the McCleans Island area), the upper part of the Styx River, and to a lesser degree, Cashmere Stream. I would recommend for these waterways, that at a minimum, a continuous riparian zone is established, protected, and ideally planted with appropriate native vegetation. This will help to reduce future chances of habitat fragmentation (i.e., has a negative impact on sustainable biodiversity), with the resulting riparian vegetation providing habitat and food for aquatic and terrestrial fauna.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments. I hope you found them informative and useful.

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

Page 137

My comments relate to the Refuse Minimisation and Disposal section of the full version, pages 136 to 141. Despite the recent withdrawal of the 2020 objective, I still endorse the aim of zero waste. I also advocate the following: research into ways of using recycled material; kerbside composting; encouragement of people to have their own compost if they have a garden on which to use the material; programmes to avoid waste generation (i.e., the excessive use of packaging is a real concern of mine). I also endorse a continued reduction in the number of rubbish bags provided as waste minimisation increases. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

120-135

The following comments relate to the network of walkways within the Port Hills and Banks Peninsular areas, and are therefore made in relation to the Parks, Open Spaces and Waterways and Recreation and Leisure categories.

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

The very extensive network of hill walkways provides a huge recreational resource for this city and thus provides one of the best ways to promote a healthy and active lifestyle. They are also a source of conservation, and significantly to the public, there is no direct cost for individuals to use them (unlike the entrance fees charged to use the various recreational and leisure centers available in Christchurch). I would like to see the Council invest money in maintaining existing tracks (including the use of interpretation panels, etc to highlight those walks that are of historic interest, such as the Bridal Path), planting of native vegetation (the existing planted valleys are an excellent start), and protecting these open areas, especially those on the Port Hills, from urban development to ensure that these amazing resource are available for future generations to use and enjoy regardless of their socio-economic status. The incorporation of Banks Peninsular into the CCC widens the area of open space and hill walkways, and I support the Council investing resources into maintaining them also. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

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