

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:
4, 6 and 14

I also want to respond to:

Name:	Simon Shikongo
Organisation:	
Daytime Phone:	021 235 7877
Evening Phone:	339 6411
Email:	detsha@gmail.com
Address:	21/13 Sylvan St, Hillmorton, Christchurch.

Your Submission:

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

I am pleased to see that so much funding (\$17.2 million) is to be devoted to tree renewal in our city over the duration of this draft community plan. As a student of biology, I take great pleasure in the many speciem trees and plantings that are in evidence throughtout the city....but I would hope that now, in the 21st century, tree renewal will not just be an exercise in keeping Christchurch beautiful, but as well have a meaningful part in contributing to an increase in native biodiversity within our city limits.

Christchurch is very much an English city, and it is without question of utmost importance to preserve this aspect of our shared past by continuing to plant speciemns that fit into the english garden design. But, at the same time, this is not England, and just as we must acknowledge our colonial roots, it is essential that we give native flora equal prominence...it is the native species that make us unique and help form our identity.

To summise, I am asking that future tree renewal looks at planting a higher ratio of native species than at present (a 50/50 mix of exotics/natives would be ideal). I can see nothing but positives if more native plants species are used - it will give our city an edge to our "English Garden City" image, and truely make us standout (and for those saying we would loose this label, well, do you really want to be known as the "English Garden City" forever and ever anyway? Everything, everywhere, changes, and I am not suggesting or even implying that we turn the clock back and have a city of 100% natives, I am just asking for more balance); the increased natives will mean more food and habitat oportunites for the native animals that depend on them, such as komako/bellbirds, pekapeka/native bats and numerous reptiles and invertebrates (imagine going to Hagley Park and knowing that when all the kahikatea fruit ripen you will see flocks of wood pigeons greedily gorging themselves on them...and all in the central city); and the increased visibilty of these trees will lead to a greater appreciation of our natural environment by the general public.

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

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

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

I am very disappointed that the Biodiversity Strategy (\$25 million) has been left out of this draft plan. What is the logic in waiting another 10 years to implement the strategy? I think it is clear to most people that (both nationally and globally) biodiversity is in decline, and that if this trend is to be halt and (better yet) reversed, action must be taken now. Indeed, if we wait much longer to take action, will we find prices have grown to a frightening amount? The east coast of the South Island is an embarrassment in terms of what has been lost (and the extent of what has been lost) here already - grassland ecosystems, wetlands, podocarp forests, to say nothing of the animal species...tuis, weka, innumerable colonies of seabirds, and so on.

My point is, if we have the ability to enact a strategy now, then we **MUST** do so. I am requesting that the Biodiveristy Strategy, in its entirety, be included in this community plan.

It appears to me that so many residents in this city are unaware of the habitats and reserves we have here in existence already (for example Travis Wetland, Horseshoe Lake Reserve, Bexely Wetlands, to say nothing of the numerous revegetated streams throughout the city). I have been informed that a project that would have done must to highlight the existence of these habitats (as well as providing fantastic fitness and leisure opportunities) - the Christchurch Perimeter walkway - has been put aside for the foreseeable future. My suggestion is that this project need not cost that much, and would be a real asset to the city that need not be delayed.

Lastly, I would like to see action taken towards the creation of a reserve that will protect the savannah woodlands and grassland communities that are barely hanging on in the McCleans Island area, and for active management of these rare ecosystems to be enacted. Hardly anyone in the city knows of their existence, and yet these communities are very much a part of the character of Canterbury (or at least, they used to be). With a little vision and forward planning, this area has the potential to be a real asset to the city, in the same way that Hagely Park is now, and the way the Travis Wetland is becoming.