

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:
On behalf of a group or organisation

Number of people you represent:
100

My submission refers to:
Full Version of the LTCCP

Page Number:

I also want to respond to:

Name:	Colin Meurk
Organisation:	Urban Landscapes Group
Daytime Phone:	3256701/3795
Evening Phone:	3323142
Email:	meurkc@landcareresearch.co.nz
Address:	11 Woodbridge Rd, CHCH 8002
Your Submission:	<p>Do you have any comments on the major projects in our Draft Community Plan?</p> <p>Issues The world-renowned landscape ecologist, Joan Nassauer who recently visited NZ on a lecture tour, makes the connection between nature, landscape, and culture. Authentic cultures and tourist experiences must therefore reflect the things that are unique to the land or are historical benchmarks. A landscape that can be read in this way is regarded as 'legible', regardless of whether one is scanning it in Auckland or Christchurch, and whether one is reading the Gondwanic, Maori, or colonial landscapes, or some new Aotearoan synthesis that reveals all these layers. The prerequisite is a balance and robust symbolic presence or visibility of all these stages - that in sum total describe who we are, where we have come from, why we are here and perhaps where we are going. The geology, topography, indigenous biota and indigenous peoples, as well as the colonial overlays, are all vital to this sense of place. It is time to reflect them all if we are to be a deeply multi-dimensional city that is attractive to citizens and visitors alike.</p> <p>Our particular concern is the role that biodiversity has to play in this narrative. It is acknowledged that much has been achieved over the past decade or so, to raise the profile of our indigenous biodiversity, but unless the commitment to represent this unique part of our heritage (as specifically required by new legislation) is reconfirmed, then many of the hard won gains are in danger of losing ground. It should be noted that citizen surveys demonstrate a higher level of interest in indigenous nature than is represented in recent decision-making. It is therefore with some dismay that we note that the Biodiversity Strategy is on the back burner. There are many urgent requirements to protect, enhance and reveal our natural heritage. Biodiversity (and that by definition means indigenous species) is a key player in the culture, life and commerce of the city. One of the associated issues is the need to improve the liaison between council and (all) communities of interest so that there can be constructive sharing of knowledge and decision-making. We make a recommendation in relation to a means of achieving this, which works well in other aspects of council activity ('friends of parks' groups) and overseas (London Biodiversity Partnership), and implementing well practised methods of community engagement that ensures everyone is heard and decision-making is inclusive.</p>

Your Submission
(Cont'd):

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

see below

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

Decisions sought

Council recommit to the (not-watered down) Biodiversity Strategy and adequately fund actions that have been identified as essential to the future of our biodiversity.

Perhaps the most critical natural area in lowland Canterbury that needs protection through purchase of leases and appropriate dedicated management is the Mcleans Island-to- Halkett dry plains grasslands and savannah woodlands. In conjunction with ECan, we request that the 15 year old recommendations to properly protect this unique and now threatened ecosystem, and to eventually create a regional plains park like no other in the country, be actioned.

One of the most visible ways in which the city represents itself is through the portals and avenues that feed most visitors and domestic traffic in and around the city. These must reflect all the layers of our history to properly tell our story. It is requested that this be done by diversifying the planting regime along these critical arteries and entranceways (from northern hemisphere deciduous trees) with a larger proportion (target of 25-50%) of indigenous noble trees and the use of striking and symbolic sculpture that interprets (all) our history.

Another shelved project that will not cost much, but will do much to improve the coherency of the city while providing unique recreational and tourist opportunities, is the Christchurch Perimeter Walkway. It is recommended that this 120 km walking and cycling track concept, connecting as it does all the major natural values of the city, be reactivated as a means of contributing to a point of difference that widens the city's portfolio of attractions.

We seek a more inclusive form of interaction with the council so that community interest groups can be sure their valid concerns are being heard and indeed contribute directly to the decision-making process. This to be achieved by formally engaging with interest groups such as Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch and a Christchurch Biodiversity Partnership (modelled after the London version) which might act under the SOC umbrella. In particular, Tangata Whenua values must be at the forefront, in honour of The Treaty partnership, of all significant environmental debates and in line with Triple Bottom Line management of our natural resources.

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Address:	11 Woodbridge Rd
Your Submission:	<p>Do you have any comments on the major projects in our Draft Community Plan?</p> <p>My main concern is the downgrading of the Biodiversity Strategy which is a cornerstone of any claim to operating a Triple Bottom Line management of the city. I will elaborate on this in a separate submission, but my main comments and requests here (in 3 below) are in relation to ressurection of a project set up some years ago then cut for cost-saving reasons - that is a CHCH Perimeter Walkway.</p> <p>Do you have any comments on groups of activities (The activities and services the Council provides?)</p> <p>relates to recreation, education, heritage and city image</p> <p>Do you have any other comments or suggestions you want to make?</p> <p>A CHCH perimeter walkway is an innovative, well researched and tested concept which offers a new attraction for the moderately fit resident and the discerning tourist. It is a 120 km walk (5-15 day walk continuous or in periodic segments) or 2-3 day cycle route that takes in the major natural, and some cultural, heritage features of the city. It is a natural history experience on our door step. A group of walkers has been walking the route for the past 10 years and completed over 3 circuits in approximately bimonthly 7 km segments. Several other established walking groups have expressed an interest in helping to set it up in a formal way. All that is required to make it work is for a series of marker posts around the route, some self guiding books (already partially written), and confirmation of service from accommodation and transport providers that have already been approached. Christchurch is the only major city in the country that doesn't promote its considerable and diverse natural history and associated recreational experiences, and for this it is the poorer (experientially and commercially). This is an opportunity that should be resurrected - it is one of the cheapest ways of catering for longer stay visitors and will provide an important recreational activity for an ageing domestic population. We therefore request that the CHCH Perimeter Walkway Project be reactivated and funded accordingly.</p>