



CHRISTCHURCH
ESTUARY
ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

Freepost 178
Our Community Plan
Christchurch City Council
P.O. Box 237
CHRISTCHURCH 8003

Corporate & Statutory Members

Bexley Wetlands Trust Inc.
Burwood/Pegasus Community Board
Canterbury Rowing Assn Inc.
Canterbury Windsports Assn Inc.
Canterbury Yachting Assn Inc.
Christchurch Yacht Club Inc.
Dept. of Conservation
Environment Canterbury
Ferrymead/Brookhaven
Residents Assn. Inc
Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board
Mt Pleasant Yacht Club Inc.
Mt Pleasant Community Centre &
Ratepayers Inc.
Nth Canty Fish & Game Council
Pleasant Point Yacht Club Inc.
Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society
Southshore Residents Assn Inc.
Sumner Residents Assn. Inc

SUBMISSION ON THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL
2006-16 LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN

Organization Making Submission:-

Christchurch Estuary Association Inc.
C/- Correspondence Secretary
Mrs. Sandra Sim
217 Shortland St
Christchurch 8006

Contact Person:-

Mr. Murray Sim (Chairman, CEAI)
Phone 960-5115
Email: murrayandsandra@actrix.co.nz

We wish to be heard in support of our submission at the hearings to be held between Thursday 25th May and Wednesday 7th June 2006.

Number of constituent members our organization represents:-- 60,000 approx.

Our submission refers to the full version of "Our Community Plan 2006 to 2016" volume 1 dated 9th March 2006; pages 71, 72, 74 and 75.

Signature:-

M.D. Sim (Chairman)

Date

2 May 2006

As our submission is on behalf of the Christchurch Estuary Assn. Inc. we are concentrating on items in the LTCCP that affect the Avon Heathcote Estuary and it's catchment area. ✓

Page 71:- Essential Capital Projects – Expansion of Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant.

We fully support the necessity of this project to cater for city growth, but would insist that due care be taken to ensure that the expanded plant operates to decrease the current unacceptably high level of ammonia discharged into the Estuary. There is strong evidence that the present concentration of ammonia in the Estuary is lethal to fish and other marine life. Dr. Cara Lowe is currently completing a fish toxicology survey and Dr. Gavin James of NIWA is writing up another fish survey. These reports, will, no doubt, support earlier research on this subject.

The Upgrade of the Treatment Plant should also include the reduction of Nitrogen and Phosphate if and when possible by any means in addition to the immediate concerns of ammonia.

As the Ocean Outfall Pipeline is still years from completion, we reject the suggestion that allowing ecological damage to continue in the "short term" in the hope that fish stocks will recover in 10 or 20 years time with the removal of wastewater discharge directly into the Estuary, is an acceptable solution.

We also request that the Upgrade eliminate the current offensive odour from the Plant afflicting neighbouring residents and frequently spreading further afield.

Page 72:- Discretionary Projects – Priority – Strategic Land Purchases

We support this proactive decision of the Council

In addition to setting funds aside to purchase land, we would also want funds to be made available and a programme set up to legally acquire and assert Council ownership and control over strategic land where ownership is in dispute.

A particular example is PT RS309 along the foreshore at Main Rd. Redcliffs. Failure of the Council to be proactive in claiming ownership of this land some years ago has wasted time, effort and money, both from the Council and community groups, especially our Association, to prevent loss of public access to the foreshore. The problem is still ongoing, with yet another adjoining landowner attempting to block public access. What is the Council going to do to solve the problem and when are they going to act?

Page 74:- Discretionary Projects; non-priority

(1) Water Re-use

The Council should raise the priority for this project before being forced to do so by Environment Canterbury when the National Regional Resources Plan (NRRP) is adopted

(2) Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust Development

The Trust's Management Plan and Memorandum of Understanding signed with the City Council are not stand alone documents, but dovetail into all Council plans and projects that affect the Estuary and it's catchment. To put Trust development projects into the "non-priority" category would down grade many of Council's responsibilities and existing policies.

We note that Officer's reports to Council and Community Board Meetings are required to advise how the subject of the report would impact on various categories i.e. Consistency with existing Council policies, effects on Maori, what community outcomes are achieved etc. etc.

We suggest an additional category be added i.e.

"What Goal or Target in the Trust Management Plan does this achieve/prevent?"

(3) Walkways Development

We would like to see this project given higher priority. The Estuary Green Edge Review report dated 14th December 2006, Section 8, Tables 9-1 merit early action to benefit from the high public interest and support shown at the meeting held 4th October at Linwood Service Centre.

Earlier in our submission we mentioned PT RS309. That issue shows that establishing walkways around the entire Estuary margins is a community priority. We would like to see a budget and timetable for joining existing ad hoc walking access around the Estuary margins included in this LTCCP.

Page 75 Discretionary Projects; non-priority – Cashmere Stream "Living Streams Development"

We were lead to believe that this project was in response to community outrage at the carte blanche given to developers of Aidenfields to allow run off and silt discharges to pollute local waterways, including the Cashmere stream which flowed into the Heathcote river. Why wait until 2010/11 to repair the damage?

We request an earlier start to this project:-

- 1) To reduce the level of ecological damage.
- 2) To give a firm message to other developers that the Council is serious in preventing similar polluting discharges.

We appreciate this opportunity to make our submission and look forward to continuing our productive and collaborative relationship with Christchurch City Council built up over the past 35 years.



Murray Sim

Chairman

Christchurch Estuary Assn. Inc.

Date