

## LTCCP 2006-16 Submission - Received by Email

**Name:** penny and cliff [penny.cliff@orcon.net.nz]  
**CC:**  
**Sent:** Tue 2/05/2006 12:35

**Your Submission:** Library Closures  
Ph:64-3-3238583  
email:penny.cliff@orcon.net.nz  
10(b)Kaputone Place  
Belfast  
Christchurch  
New Zealand  
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This submission on the CCC-Plan is addressed specifically to the elected members of the Christchurch City Council.  
The submission concerns the proposal to close the Bishopdale and Redwood public libraries, as stated on Page 8 of the Draft Summary.

**Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council,**

I respectfully draw your attention to the arbitrary and seemingly cavalier proposal to deprive a great number of ratepayers, the majority of them (from personal observation) of an older generation, of the convenience of an easily accessible Council library service.

The proposal is to close the Bishopdale and Redwood libraries (and one other in Spreydon). The saving to ALL the ratepayers of Christchurch will be a relatively trivial sum of "up to NZ\$450,000, according to the Draft Plan.

At the stroke of a pen, the Council proposes to deprive a very large catchment area of the northern suburbs of both the Bishopdale and Redwood libraries. I know, from personal experience, that the Bishopdale library is a busy library, with a constant flow of subscribers. The Bishopdale library is conveniently situated, next to the major shopping centre of its immediate area, and with very good parking facilities. Hundreds of patrons, of whom MANY are elderly, use this facility. The Draft Plan itself emphasises that the city has a proportionately large and ever growing population of Over-65s. Yet it proposes to do a considerable disservice to a significant number of that group in the Belfast and Bishopdale areas of the city!

The proposal to close the Bishopdale library is an aberration. It goes against one of the driving concepts of the Community Plan – "improving the quality of life that residents expect". It will actually diminish that quality of life for hundreds of Christchurch residents in the affected suburbs of Belfast, Redwood, Bishopdale and Burnside. Ordinary logic and commonsense needs to prevail. Bishopdale's library should continue to serve this wide catchment area.

I have no doubt that the Papanui library provides a good service. But it is in a much more traffic-congested area, some kilometres away from Bishopdale, and this closure proposal will only serve to increase the Papanui congestion while doing a disservice to residents of neighbouring suburbs.

J.E.C.Scott