

21st April 2006

LTCCP Submission  
Our Community Plan  
Christchurch City Council  
PO Box 237  
Christchurch

I wish to make a submission in person to Council based on the web site publication of the LTCCP.

As a general observation, there are many quoted statistics of performance levels, intentions and measures of citizen satisfaction that bear looking at with suspicion. I've yet to meet anyone who has taken part in any such survey.

Pages 91 – 95. Centre city revitalisation. This is at odds with the transport policies. New Zealand is much more like Australia and the USA rather than Europe (apart from Wellington). Walkway development is, however, much more in line with Kiwi traditions and inclinations.

Page 111. The measures of satisfaction look very optimistic, especially the Council making decisions in the best interest of Christchurch city. What is the use of having elected councillors when the City Manager is not answerably? This is worse than the 'yes minister' syndrome evident in central government. No wonder people don't bother to vote.

Page 123. Why is there a plan to increase the area per person of under-utilised regional parks.

Page 145. To claim a permit system timing compliance of 69% is laughable. There must be a lot of 'rubber stamping' counted as compliance. The maximum time indicated by statute is excessive and many excuses are made for a very poor and expensive so called service.

Page 151. Targets for travel time appear based on achieving gridlock.

Page 152. Anyone who drives around Christchurch can tell you there are very few smooth urban roads. The repair and maintenance of the roads is even worse than the original construction.

Page 153. This appears to use safety issues as a smoke screen for social experimentation.

Page 154. Shows very large expenditure to produce poor results.

Page 155. Streets and Transport Improvements. This package is very expensive and does not work well. The works have been hijacked by 'traffic control' who spend vast sums needed elsewhere making our roads much worse. I would like to sue the authority for the damage done to vehicles and contents.

I live in Harker Street which is a comparatively good road despite the stupid end narrowing. The surrounding streets have become 'sealed motocross tracks' and further degraded by adding speed control humps. The street outside the Catholic school backing onto Addington mall has four of these monstrosities in about 100 metres. Obviously someone in traffic control has a child at the school.

In a similar vein, the phasing of the traffic light system is carefully designed to bring traffic to a standstill. The cost to the city in terms of actual loss of money as well as loss of amenity and quality of life is enormous. All this from people who are not answerable to their employers, the rate payer.

Yours truly,

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