

Christchurch City Council, Our Community Plan 2006 to 2016

Submission:

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We wish to be **heard**, in Akaroa, in support of this submission.

1. Information.

On the 24th of April we attended a meeting on the Community Plan in Akaroa, because we were unable to find any information relevant to Banks Peninsula in the Community Plan. It became apparent at the meeting that Peninsula information was contained in a number of different documents and also that important figures were not publicly available. An undertaking to place these on the website by 26th April was given. It would be helpful if the Plan included a section advising where Peninsula information can be obtained, and explaining how the peninsula has been integrated in the document.

2. Identity.

Many Akaroa residents are unhappy with our area being referred to as 'The City' or 'Greater Christchurch' and feel strongly about the need to retain our identity. A new name which reflects the new urban and rural make of the Council is urgently needed. We suggest that in the meantime the words 'City and Peninsula' are used.

3. Akaroa Town Plan

We support the provision of \$150,000 for an Akaroa Greater Plan, but note that this is provided under 'Non-subsidised Roothing'. The strategic Town Plan, which the Akaroa community has been requesting for many years now, is envisaged as including much more than infrastructure planning. If all of this amount is required for planning for roading, traffic and parking then further provision must be made for strategic planning on other issues. These include matters such as

- the need for Council retention, and possible future acquisition or disposal of, strategic land and property.
- Community facilities – swimming pool, museum expansion, wharves, affordable housing, etc
- Policies regarding the use of public space for private commercial operations.
- The impact of increasing visitor numbers on the environment and community well being.

Akaroa urgently needs a town Plan to enable to provide a clearer direction for decision-makers, developers and the community.

Until a strategic Town Plan for Akaroa is developed, all Council owned should be retained, and provision for non- essential capital work, eg. waterfront or reserves developments, put on hold.

4. Recreation and Leisure page 129

The need for a covered public swimming pool in the Akaroa area should be addressed.

5. Rating Policies

Sector C - Rural Properties Page 247

(a) should include 'conservation activities'. An increasing number of landowners are using their land for conservation and they should not be penalised for this.

(ii) We understand that the basis for the rural differential is that rural properties do not receive, or are unable to use some services. Therefore we are concerned that rural properties 'used principally for residential purposes' will not receive the differential. Ratepayers should not be expected to pay for services they do not receive.

Rural Differential Pages 239, 247, 264

The values of Peninsula rural land have been increasing dramatically and the impact of CCC capital value rating policies on the sustainability of farming need to be fully considered. The rates for many rural properties far exceed the level of benefit provided. The rural differential should be increased and/or other policies developed to ensure that rural land remains sustainable.

Rates Remission Policies Page 249

We understand that the BPDC remission of rates on private land protected in perpetuity by formal covenant is being continued by the CCC. We think that the Rates Remission Policies should make this clear, as an incentive for private conservation.

Funding for Capital Expenditure.

We understand that capital expenditure for sewer, water and land drainage is funded from the general rate, even though these services have targeted rates. However there is no explanation or justification for this in the Plan. It is completely unfair to expect those who do not receive these services to pay for capital works, when they must also pay for this on their own properties.

The capital expenditure for these services should be funded from their respective targeted rates.

6. Bus Exchange

As a regular visitor to central Christchurch, We are increasingly put off by the numerous large, noisy, dangerous buses. Before committing a further \$56m to the bus exchange, there should be a complete rethink about bus services. We think that the location away from the city centre (Moorhouse Ave perhaps) and the provision of cheap or free electric shuttle buses around the central city would greatly improve its ambience and attractiveness.

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