

LTCCP 2006-16 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 5 May 2006

I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this submission be considered.

I am completing this submission:
For yourself

Number of people you represent:

My submission refers to:
Summary Version of the LTCCP

Page Number:

I also want to respond to:

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Address:	7 Manatu Lane Opawa Christchurch 8002
Your Submission:	<p>Do you have any comments on the major projects in our Draft Community Plan?</p> <p>The presentation of the major projects in the plan could be improved. What does "Streets and transport improvements \$187.3 million" comprise? It must be possible to break this down into individual projects that can be prioritised. Was this figure not arrived at by totalling the amounts for a number of smaller projects? Surely some of the projects that have been included, or not included, are not "all or nothing" projects. Given the climate change we are experiencing and the decrease in rainfall, it seems crazy to not find \$0.2 million for a water re-use project.</p> <p>Too much is being spent on streets. With the increasing price of oil there will be a decrease in the use of private vehicles and this will reduce the need for roading improvements to ease congestion. Funds could be diverted from streets and transport to fund more important projects. I ask that the biodiversity strategy, Ihutai Management Plan and walkways development projects receive funding. The foundation of sustainability is preserving what we already have, so momentum on improving the biodiversity represented in Christchurch must be maintained through the biodiversity strategy. The Ihutai Management Plan also deserves funding for its contribution to preserving a vital element of the Christchurch ecosystem. The Christchurch perimeter walkway will become a highly appreciated asset as we are forced to forsake our cars by increasing petrol prices. Chip a little off the streets budget to encourage walking!</p> <p>I welcome a revised Development Contributions Policy. The development of outlying suburbs and new regional centres is increasing the congestion on Christchurch roads as residents of these areas commute in their cars. How can Christchurch recover the extra costs imposed on ratepayers by residents of areas outside Christchurch commuting to the city? Perhaps a congestion tax on people commuting by private car would help. Ideally the cost of improving public transport connections to these areas should be built into the price of sections in these new developments. Intensification of residential areas closer to the centre of the city would improve the economies of scale for frequent public transport and avoid the loss of fertile soils to housing. As oil supplies diminish and transportation costs increase, it will become essential for Christchurch to grow its food supplies near at hand. Covering arable land with houses will make this transition difficult.</p>

**Your Submission
(Cont'd):**

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

Community support - page 10

I am suspicious of the Council's plan to review its delivery of housing services in 2006/07. I hope that this does not signal the Council's intention to get out of providing housing services. I urge the Council to continue providing these services. There are many hidden costs to the community (ill health, poverty, crime etc.) when its members are not housed adequately. Some of these costs would accrue to the city and provision of housing gives a return that is not obvious on a balance sheet, but is nevertheless real.

Cultural and learning services - page 11

I oppose closing any of the city's libraries, especially the mobile library. As transportation becomes more expensive distributed and mobile libraries will become more important. Libraries should be promoted to increase use of them and enable increased opening hours. Investments in the education of the population are always worthwhile.

Democracy and governance - page 12

Recently I have been getting the impression that public consultation has been window dressing for decisions that have already been taken, eg. the recent solid waste management proposals. Council must guard against staff presenting councillors and the public with "take it or leave it" options. "Collating and processing submissions" is not sufficient. The Council must take account of the opinions expressed by submitters. I also call for the Council to work more with those NGOs that have undervalued expertise, eg. Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch.

Economic development - page 13

It is important that new business ventures that are selected for support are environmentally sustainable.

Parks, open spaces and waterways - page 14

As Christchurch trees are renewed I would like to see the proportion of native trees increased. They will last longer than exotic trees and be cheaper in the long run. Native trees such as totara, kahikatea and kowhai are handsome, functional and enhance biodiversity through providing habitat for native birds and invertebrates.

Recreation and leisure - page 15

More money should be invested in encouraging cycling. This will improve the health of residents as well as reduce congestion on the roads and the need to spend money on them. The increase in fuel prices will eventually provide incentive for people to change to cycling.

Refuse minimisation and disposal - page 16

Christchurch is failing at waste minimisation. More public education is required to push the reduce, reuse, recycle message. What do we get for \$21.4 million? The outcome of the recent solid waste management review seemed to be business as usual. Funding for the Enviroschools programme should be increased. Educating children is the best place to start.

Regulatory services - page 17

Building and development regulations that promote more energy efficient housing are required. For example, ensuring that sections are laid out so that the house can be put at the optimum angle to the sun, mandating solar water heating, better insulation, cleaner heating and double glazing for new houses.

**Your Submission
(Cont'd):**

Streets and transport - page 18

Efforts to encourage cycling, walking and use of public transport should be redoubled. The bus exchange must be got right the second time around, and not be found to be inadequate for the increased usage in a few years time. Options for suburban and regional rail transport should be investigated. Commuters from Rolleston and Pegasus should be reaching the city by energy-efficient rail transport.

Wastewater collection and treatment - page 19

Alternatives to conventional sewerage for houses should be permitted and encouraged, ie. composting toilets. This would lead to lower water usage as well as less wastewater. Retention of rainwater on properties for garden watering or toilet flushing should be encouraged through sample designs and perhaps subsidies. As the supply diminishes and demands increase our exceptional tap water is too valuable to flush down the drain.

Water supply - page 20

The aquifers supplying the city's water are precious and vulnerable to over-extraction. More research into their status is advisable to ensure that we are abstracting water sustainably. Consideration should be given to metering and charging for excessive water use. Building regulations could be improved to conserve water used in urinals and for air conditioning, for example. We have a climate that is becoming drier and we must take proper account of this.

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

Introduction - page 1

"Christchurch and its surroundings are a great place to live. We're committed to making sure that it stays that way." These are fine words and I support the sentiment, but the LTCCP does not adequately address the issues of diminishing oil supplies, increasing energy prices and climate change. More emphasis on these issues and the overarching issue of sustainability is needed. The days of "business as usual" are numbered. The Council must take the lead in moving towards a more sustainable way of living. As fossil fuels are exhausted globally we will have to learn to live within the means of our ecosystem as we will no longer have the energy resources to impose our will on nature.

Rates information - page 3

I support increases in rates to fund essential expenditure for the city, rather than selling off the city's assets for short term gain. The city must retain ownership of the Lyttelton Port Company, Red Bus Limited and City Care.

Financial overview - page 5

Dividends from the Council's subsidiaries will not rise gradually if they are sold off. City Care and Red Bus should be restored to the strategic assets list and any plans to sell off ANY the Council's holding in the Lyttelton Port Company should be abandoned. These are public assets and should not be sold off without proper public consultation. If sold to private interests they will be run down, asset stripped and left to the ratepayer to salvage at which time it would become obvious just how strategic they are.

Our future direction - pages 6 & 7

If Christchurch is to become a global investment destination this should lead to the provision of well-paying employment for New Zealanders, in work that does not damage our social and physical environment. It should not mean selling community assets into foreign control.

**Your Submission
(Cont'd):**

How can a future goal be "Biodiversity is restored, protected and enhanced." yet the biodiversity strategy was not funded. Funding for this strategy must be assured.

I support the strategic directions that embrace sustainability, but not enough account is taken of the effects diminishing world oil supplies and climate change will have on the ability of Christchurch to continue to function effectively. The plan should consider the implications of these threats thoroughly, as they require immediate action.