

LTCCP 2006-16 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 5 May 2006

I wish to talk to the main points in my submission at the hearings to be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006.

I am completing this submission:
For yourself

Number of people you represent:

My submission refers to:
Summary Version of the LTCCP

Page Number:
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I also want to respond to:

Name:	David McLernon
Organisation:	
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Address:	15 Snowdon Road Christchurch
Your Submission:	<p>Do you have any comments on the major projects in our Draft Community Plan?</p> <p>Submission by David McLernon to the CCC's LTCCP - Our Community Plan 2006</p> <p>My name is David McLernon and I reside at 15 Snowdon Road, Christchurch.</p> <p>I am an engineer and also sit regularly as a Resource Consent Commissioner. In that role and under the RMA, I am required to take account of the effects, both positive and negative, of any proposed activity.</p> <p>I oppose the proposal to drop the present proposed funding of \$11 million for a flat water facility from the LTCCP - Our Community Plan (refer summary version, page 4).</p> <p>The reasons I believe funding for the flat water facility should be retained in the LTCCP are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Kerrs Reach is no longer suitable or safe for flat water recreation due to congestion/overcrowding. This is due to an increase in rowing numbers coupled with kayaking and waka ama. The CCC recognised these safety issues in their letter to Canterbury Rowing dated 14 May 2003. The river also fails to reach acceptable water quality standards for contact recreation at times.2. Twenty three (23) sports have indicated that they would use Lake Isaac and surrounding land if it were available.3. Through the generosity of Lady Diana Isaac, Christchurch would be gifted a new "Hagley Park" for the 21st century4. Lake Isaac itself would have a water area of approximately 69ha with the surrounding land taking the total area to approx. 169ha.5. Rowing is one of 20 elite performance sports (as designated by Sport and Recreation NZ (SPARC) to receive additional funding, technical and business support.

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

6. Christchurch has world class facilities for all of the other elite sports except rowing.

7. This has been the situation for more than 30 years - many of you will remember the euphoria of the NZ Rowing 8's Gold Medal in the 1972 Munich Olympics and the disappointment that the rowing could not be included in the 1974 Commonwealth Games due to the inadequacy of Kerrs Reach.

8. Lake Isaac is the only viable option for a world class flat water facility within the greater Christchurch area. Other sites have been considered but rejected as not suitable. This proximity is needed to allow daily training by Christchurch residents.

9. The only problem is the perceived and emotive risk of bird strike with aircraft using Christchurch Airport.

10. The potential risks for bird strike are not supported by the fact that many major airports are surrounded by or close to water. For example, in NZ we have Auckland, Wellington, Queenstown international airports as well as others in smaller centres such as Napier, Giborne, Nelson. Overseas there are many more - Sydney, Singapore, Hong Kong and Kansai (Osaka), JFK New York and London Heathrow to name a few.

11. The last may surprise you but within 3km of the runway at the western end of Heathrow Airport and directly under the approach path/fan are 3 large reservoirs with a total area of more than 700ha. These reservoirs are also listed/identified as nature conservation sites.

12. By comparison, Lake Isaac is not under the approach paths and is further than 3km from the runways. In relation to the size of the water bodies, the Avon-Heathcote estuary is only slightly larger at 880ha in area than those in the UK.

13. Rowing and airports are not mutually exclusive. The 2003 World Rowing Championships were held in Linate, 7km from the Milan city centre. Linate airport is Milan's "second" airport but even so handles more flights per day than Christchurch. The rowing course is only 700 metres from the runway.

14. The 2006 World Rowing Championships are to be held at Dorney Lake in England, approx. 14km from London Heathrow.

15. In my view, of properly designed, Lake Isaac will not increase the bird strike risk above present levels as it can be designed to minimise its attraction to birds using measures such as steep banks into the water.

16. Lake Isaac will bring an additional 169ha of land directly under the control of the CCC and hence the ability to control and manage birds. It also means housing will not be built close to the airport with the potential for future opposition to aircraft noise.

17. Lake Isaac has been relocated from its original position so it is now nearly 4km from the airport runways and hard against the Waimakariri River stop banks Note: 90% of bird strikes occur directly over airport land.

18. The steep banks of the lake mean it will not be as attractive to birds as the braided Waimakariri river bed.

19. The Transport Canada Wildlife Management document states that within a 3.2km radius of an airport, sewage lagoons and stormwater retention ponds can be accommodated provided they are outside the approach paths. Lake Isaac meets these criteria.

20. Provided an appropriate bird mitigation plan is implemented, there is no liability risk to either the CIAL Board or City Councillors. If there was no plan at all, then there could be a potential risk but once a plan is in place that risk is obviated.

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

21. Lake Isaac will contribute to the health and recreation opportunities for residents of Christchurch.

22. Lake Isaac will support the Parks and open spaces objective of maintaining the ratio of urban parks to residents and as such will make contribution to the 9 community outcomes for parks and open spaces (see page 14 and 15 of the summary version of the draft LTCCP).

23. Lake Isaac will allow Christchurch to host additional sporting events with the associated economic benefits for Christchurch businesses - hotels/motels, restaurants, taxis, etc., (see objectives of Recreation & Leisure page 15 of summary version of LTCCP).

24. It would also allow consideration of the establishment of a Water Sports Academy for flat water sports, perhaps in conjunction with Canterbury or Lincoln University with the ongoing economic benefits that this would bring.

25. Even though it is difficult for you having to weigh up all the demands for funding, I urge that funding be retained in the LTCCP to enable Lake Isaac to be progressed now.

26. Possible areas that could be considered for providing funding for Lake Isaac are:

- . Deferring the new pool for residents in the north of the city (\$8.5m) as QEII is relatively nearby and Jellie Park Pool is being upgraded (\$11.6m).
- . Defer/reduce the scale of tree renewal (\$17.2m).
- . Defer strategic land purchase as Lake Isaac could meet some aspects of those purchases (\$37.6m).

27. In conclusion, while I appreciate your difficulties, I urge you to retain funding for Lake Isaac for the benefits it will bring to Christchurch residents so it will continue to be the city of choice for people in New Zealand.

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

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