

# LTCCP 2006-10 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:**  
On behalf of a group or organisation

**Number of people you represent:**  
5

**My submission refers to:**  
Summary Version of the LTCCP

**Page Number:**  
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**I also want to respond to:**

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<b>Organisation:</b>	Amateur Basketball Canterbury
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<b>Evening Phone:</b>	0274 352396
<b>Email:</b>	phil.benoit@rams.org.nz
<b>Address:</b>	PO Box 31172 Christchurch
<b>Your Submission:</b>	<b>Do you have any comments on the major projects in our Draft Community Plan?</b>
	<b>Do you have any comments on groups of activities (The activities and services the Council provides?)</b>
	The Canterbury Rams believes that at the current time there is a serious need for the Council to consider the current impact on the city of Stadia, and in particular the lack of mid sized stadia suitable for hosting national and international events for a large number of indoor sporting groups.
	<b>Do you have any other comments or suggestions you want to make?</b>
	<p>As indicated in the draft LTCCP (page 129) the aim of the council is to assist local clubs in the Christchurch area. At the current time a number of local clubs and sporting organizations are struggling to compete on a regional and national level.</p> <p>The draft LTCCP also makes mention of the economic benefits of hosting events and festivals (pg 130) as well as helping local organizations in the bidding and hosting of these events. At the current time Amateur Basketball Canterbury struggles to compete on a financial level with a number of other teams in the National Basketball league. This is due to a number of factors, including the high cost of league standard stadiums and the current volume of these stadiums.</p> <p>With Westpac Centre holding a great number of people, far more than will attend the average NBL (or National Bank Cup Netball) game, there is real issue in the attractiveness of this venue to not only the local team but also to national television organizations wishing to put produce a quality event.</p> <p>Amateur Basketball Canterbury struggles at Westpac Centre due to the current cost of the facility in relation to the cost of other team and also due to the large size of the venue. Without atmosphere an event is dead, and inside a stadium seating over 8000 it is hard for a sporting organization in Christchurch to create genuine atmosphere.</p>

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

Christchurch is getting bypassed for Dunedin as their current stadium portrays a great image to the national audience due to its size in the sporting environment. The 2500 seat stadium in Dunedin has hosted a Tall Blacks international in the last 12 months and is likely to attract another 2 tests within the next 6 months. Napier has attracted 2 Tall Black tests coming up in July with a stadium seating just over 2000. In the current national climate Westpac is too big and too expensive for national sporting bodies to host international events that will look good on TV, an important factor in today's current environment.

The draft LTCCP mentions Christchurch's international reputation (pg 132) as something that may be impacted negatively if it is not to fulfill its objectives in the LTCCP. Without a quality, mid-sized stadium in the city this reputation is eroding yearly. Christchurch is not seen on television during sporting events, it lacks the ability to host large scale national tournaments and this is having a negative effect on the minds of those looking to run events. Christchurch has the population base to support these big events, why are they going to Dunedin, Napier and other smaller centers in NZ? Simple, they have facilities to satisfy the needs of the promoters; they are therefore reaping the benefits of the extra income from these events.

Amateur Basketball Canterbury strongly urges the Christchurch City Council to consider the redevelopment of Cowles stadium as a major priority in the LTCCP. With the addition of a mid-sized indoor sports arena at competitive rates Christchurch will attract national and international indoor sporting events. These events will then be shown nationally and internationally on television networks supporting both the local team and their visiting rivals.

With a mid-sized indoor sports stadium Amateur Basketball Canterbury will be better prepared to compete at the national level with other team in the NBL and bring back the pride Canterbury had in its basketball team in the late 80's early 90's. It would be great for Christchurch to have something to cheer about other than rugby for a change.