

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:
3=20

I also want to respond to: Development Contributions

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Your Submission:	Do you have any comments on the major projects in our Draft Community Plan?
	Page 4 Essential Projects
	Our grandkids will not be able to afford to live here, should they choose to do so, unless Chch develops transportation systems not dependent upon individual vehicles. Neighborhood planning must plan for pedestrians, bikes and public transit as the chief means of transit within and between neighborhoods.
	What point is there to funding a Blenheim Road bypass and \$187.3 million in street infrastructure when many, if not most, will no longer be able to afford individual vehicles? Whether its the impact of energy prices on operating a vehicle, or on the overall cost of living, this is an option likely to be open to fewer of us in the future. Let those who choose to use vehicles, pay the price of the infrastructure.
	Do you have any comments on groups of activities (The activities and services the Council provides?)
	P 6 World Class
	To reach the goals set out under "world class botique city" CHCH will need to model the new strategies and behaviours of a city which is NOT reliant on fossil fuels and individual vehicles. IF we truly want to see clean air and water while improving our open spaces, commercial spaces and residential spaces we will need to make them convently accessible via foot, bike, bus and trains. Cars will have their place, but that place will, of necessity, shrink dramatically.
	Page 6 Safety
	Where is the planning for earthquake, flood, tsunami, drought? Are we looking forward to dealing with rising sea levels? Will the new council chambers be useable after a 7+ quake? This all seems rather limited and without foresight.

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

Page 6 Community

Strong communities require strong centres/meeting places Even "those who are most vulnerable" will need to be able to access community centres both through the support of neighborhood facilities and free or inexpensive transit options. How does closing community halls and libraries square with this proposal? Will economic development initiatives be spread across the city, or will it be concentrated, thereby requiring more commuting?

Page 6 Environment

Fossil fuels use and more roads DAMAGE the environment. Where are programs to make new construction and remodeling energy efficient? I did not find them within the regulatory section. Will the \$17 million spent on trees provide us with trees which require ongoing maintenance and replacement, or with heritage trees which our grand kids will thank us for?

Page 7 Prosperity

Identifying and managing future trends and demands may well be the best way to assure our prosperity. This document is an opportunity to both cope with the future and place us in a position to help other cities, other countries, with their efforts to cope. Taking mitigating steps which do not address the underlying impossibilities of our existing approaches will not help us. Involving community members in identifying macro future trends, the needs of their neighborhoods, and developing the strategies which can make the most of this could be very profitable.

Page 7 Health

With all the discussion concerning the need for more exercise and healthier diets I am surprised not to see both of these goals addressed. The lack of providing the option for exercise as part of daily routines, walking-biking to work and for neighborhood based farmer's markets to provide health diet choices in a fun and accessible venue is striking. **FUND THESE ACTIVITIES.**

Promoting environmentally sustainable business practices is great. What are they? Build on this by promoting environmentally sustainable living environments.

Page 8 Services Reduction

Excluding the NZ Post option this saves \$1.4 mill, or about one tenth of 1% of a rates increase. Minimal savings, potentially major impact. While some of these items appear of little value I have to question how cutting neighborhood facilities is not in conflict with the goals of stronger communities and livable cities.

Page 9 Improvements

With nearly \$14 mill average spending over 3 years for the Central City and \$20 mill average spending over 3 years for all other neighborhoods I am left to wonder about balance and priorities.

Page 10 Communities

The early learning centers are a GREAT idea and I commend the council for this. I have no young children and will not feel more included by this initiative. Community Centres for all phases of life are required. Funding of life long education, of community organizers to help community groups form, thrive and apply for the council funding will be crucial. Do not count on volunteers, there are ever fewer.

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

Page 11 Culture

Culture is important! How much of this \$40 mill is for libraries? How much for capital projects which benefit what? This \$40 mill is more than projected for the Central City and Neighborhood Development combined! Just who is benefiting and where are the facts to support this skewed funding?

Page 12 Democracy and Governance

Broaden the scope and timeliness of notifications! When an area is being considered for change widely publicize this fact well before it is a fait accompli. Any project or change which MIGHT impact a neighborhood must be discussed at a point when input can actually impact the decision making. Broaden the mailings of notices to adjoining property owners. At least a one block square radius in residential and much larger in commercial areas. NO MORE 14 Story buildings no one dreamed could happen!

Page 15 Recreation and Leisure

Facilities will manage to compete with "couch potato" activities only to a minimal extent. Given the option of "vegging out" or making the effort to go out and exercise, most choose the former. A minority of us are actually physically inclined.

All these proposals are fine, but limited. Put at least this amount of funding into physically separate bikeways which actually help people get to where they need to go, and our overall physical health and fitness will be enhanced. The vast majority of people I speak to don't walk or bike as they do not feel safe doing so. Just read some of the neighborhood papers. If you really want to cut infrastructure costs while improving the quality of life and encourage exercise, this is where you need to put the funding; into safe, well planned alternatives to driving the car.

Page 18 Streets and Transport

Minimizing cars on the road saves money and the environment. Providing safe foot paths and cycle ways is a first step.

Money spent on cycleways and public transit will well prepare the city for a future with less dependence on fossil fuels. It will reduce the need to spend ever more on expensive roading projects. It will improve our health & environment while making CHCH a more attractive destination and investment opportunity. INCREASE THIS FUNDING.

Page 19 & 20 Waste water and Water supply

Why are we pumping our waste water into an expensive ocean outfall line when our water use is exceeding our supply and our aquifers are drying up?

It would cost more to treat the water, but what is it going to cost us to find new water? What will it cost us if we can't find new water? This is basic; and the council's response to date has not been forward looking or re-assuring.

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

Take a long hard look at the likely future we have to cope with over 10, 25, 50 and 100 years. Consider that past councils have not always done this and that we are now having to provide funding to correct past mistakes. Yes, it is difficult to do, and even harder to explain to the public in a 30 second sound bite.

Perhaps many of us are not "up" to participating responsibly in this democracy. I think that most of us are. It will take hard work and good will from both sides. Thank you for doing all that you have done and for creating this document. I just can't agree that this round of public input is really enough.

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

Council staff and councillors have had a great deal of time to consider this process, it is their job. Citizens are johnny come lately, but not due to lack of interest. Acknowledge that Democracy may be slow and, seemingly inefficient, but accept that, properly done, the outcome can be far better than the best efforts of even very skilled and well meaning professionals working alone.

I appreciate your effort but am left to question the usefulness of this document as a forward looking 10 year plan. Its unstated assumptions indicate a belief in "business as usual", when all indications are that this will not be the case. It is not good enough to do cutting edge year 2000 planning. Much has changed in the last year, and much more will change. Recognize and plan for the changes. This plan seems poorly positioned to do that. I fear it will lock us into strategies which will hobble us over the next 10 years, not strategies which will allow us to flexibly and creatively adapt to an ever and quickly changing world.

I have not asked to make a submission at the hearings as I fear you will be overwhelmed. I must trust that there will be those within the process who will advocate for the issues I have raised.

Thank you.