

2007/08 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN AND 2007 AMENDMENTS TO THE LTCCP 2006-16 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 11 May 2007

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Monday 28 May 2007 and Tuesday 5 June 2007.

Are you completing this submission:	On behalf of a group or organisation
If you are representing, how many people do you represent?	
Name:	Hamish Riach
Organisation:	Canterbury Rugby Football Union / Crusaders Franchise Ltd
Contact Address:	40 Stevens Street PO Box 755 Christchurch
Daytime Phone:	03 379 8300 ext 705
Evening Phone:	
Email:	hamish.riach@crfu.co.nz
Date:	11/5/2007
Your Submission:	Letter dated 02 May 2007 from David Dally, Acting General Manager Public Affairs. Main changes proposed in the Amendments to the LTCCP are: Second Point.. The future development of Jade Stadium. The Council has supported the proposal to develop Jade Stadium.....be completed in time for the Rugby World Cup 2011.
Which principles and/or provisions of the Draft Amended Development Contributions Policy (DCP) do you support and why?	
Which principles and/or provisions of the Draft Amended DCP do you oppose and why?	
What exactly do you want the Council to do about the Draft Amended DCP?	
Any other remarks/comments:	



40 Stevens Street
 PO Box 755
 Christchurch
 New Zealand
 Phone (03) 379 8300
 Fax (03) 365 3565
www.crfu.co.nz

11 May 2007

David Dally
 Acting General Manager Public Affairs
 Christchurch City Council
 PO Box 237
 Christchurch

Dear Mr Dally,

Draft 2007 Amendments to the Long-Term Council Community Plan 2006 – 2016

This submission is on behalf of the Canterbury Rugby Football Union (CRFU) and Crusaders Franchise Ltd (CFL). The CRFU is the major tenant of Jade Stadium.

The draft 2007 Amendments to the Long-Term Council Community Plan 2006 – 2016 (LTCCP) include a Statement of proposal for Jade Stadium Redevelopment.

We write in support of the redevelopment of Jade Stadium, and wish to see the Full Circle project completed.

We wish to make it clear, however, that professional rugby is facing uncertain times from 2010 onwards in terms of future competitions and attendances. Given the uncertainties of each of these matters, the Council must appreciate that our commitment to the redeveloped stadium is not without risk.

Further, there is no one else to support rugby in this part of the country. We cannot put the game under such financial stress that we are unable, for example, to nurture the amateur game or contract elite players and coaches, and thus threaten the viability of the very game itself.

Jade Stadium is a community asset, both in terms of ownership and the way in which the people of Christchurch have such a strong and emotional link to the ground. The City Council provides any number of facilities, assets and indeed activities that contribute to the way Christchurch citizens feel about living in the City. That is right and proper.



However, some facilities are asked to conform to a “business case” whereas others do not have such a commercial imperative. If Jade Stadium was regarded as a City amenity that provided benefit to the City (whether that be to the citizens themselves, accommodation providers, tourist operators, hospitality outlets, transport providers, or any other sector that derives a benefit), then the pressure on rugby would be much less.

Some economists believe the Rugby World Cup 2011 alone will return the capital cost of the stadium re-development in economic benefit to the City – not rugby, but the City in its widest sense. It is right that the City, therefore, should pay – the best representative of the City is the Council, which is in the dual capacity as Stadium owner. Levying those who will benefit (accommodation, tourist, hospitality, transport sectors etc) has appeal.

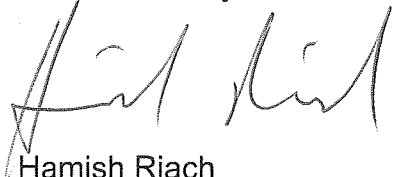
A completed Jade Stadium will provide the opportunity for the city to attract many other events over the next many decades. These events may be sporting fixtures, concerts, rallies, conferences etc – the organisations behind these events will benefit hugely from the redevelopment, but are not being asked to take on-going risk via an annual rental agreement.

The debate around rugby’s contribution is often centred on the rental amount to directly access the Stadium. In reality, however, the contribution that rugby makes is vastly wider and more significant. Every time a rugby match is held there is an economic benefit to the city. Jade Stadium Ltd’s own financial models to fund the operation of the Stadium rely on revenue streams resulting from the holding of rugby matches (eg hospitality, suite hire etc). “Rugby” makes a massive contribution to both the stadium’s viability and the economic well-being of the city.

Of course rugby should pay to be a tenant, and we are willing and prepared to do so. We cannot, however, pay a disproportionately high amount to our own detriment to ensure the City itself has a facility that provides so many benefits to so many others who are not paying sufficient, or indeed anything.

We do wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hamish Riach', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Hamish Riach
Chief Executive