



**CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL
DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN /DRAFT LTTC PLAN
SUBMISSION – MAY 2007**

FROM
N.Z ACADEMY OF SPORT : SOUTH ISLAND

The following is a submission from the New Zealand Academy of Sport : South Island (ASI) to the Christchurch City Council draft Annual Plan and the draft LTTC Plan. It addresses support for the Plans, the relevance of sport to the city and the partnership approach required for the development of sport and performance in the community.

The ASI wishes to show its support for the plans and the commitment being made to sport by the Christchurch City Council within the significant context of meeting the needs of the people of Christchurch.

It is important that planning incorporate specific commitment to sport, in particular performance sport, and recognise the economic and social benefits associated.

The period of the past 5 years has seen the evolution of an excellent partnership approach between the ASI and the Council. This partnership reflects our common vision for Christchurch and QEII to be recognised and promoted nationally and internationally for its value as a high performance training, preparation and performance base.

The decision by Council to support the operations over the next five years of the ASI driven Centre of Sport Excellence based at QE11, adds weight to the partnership and the proposition. It is timely and greatly appreciated. It is also an indication of the value Council places on this aspect of sport and to the proposition it presents to the city. Maintaining this momentum and strengthening relationships towards this end is critical.

The ongoing enhancement of, and investment in the unique combination of facilities at QE11 ensures that it will be a lead facility in NZ for multi purpose sport training, preparation and performance.

SPARC has recently signalled a new strategy with the aim of recognising two major centres of excellence (one in each of the North and South Islands) to be led by regional operations (e.g. ASI) that will focus on centring facilities, services and expertise around athlete and coach needs. QE11 is cited as having the potential to be one such centre base. A SPARC driven 'centre of excellence' blue print is expected to be completed by June 2007.

Support funding and leverage are key issues in the establishment of this venture. Ensuring there is space and scope for the development and growth of the ASI and other sporting organisations and programmes is essential.

The Council's strategy and success in facilitating and hosting national and international events and competitions is to be applauded. Equally sound social and economic benefits are achievable through optimising opportunities for sport training, preparation and performance. The ASI expects to play a key role in developing strategy that focuses on meeting the needs of high performance preparation.

It is vital that key agencies in the city receive support to ensure athletes, coaches and sports are able to develop and sustain sporting performance and achievement so that they can represent their city and country with pride. Having role models achieving on the national and international stage enhances the profile of the city, enables people to feel good about themselves, have a sense of pride in their community and to aspire to and achieve excellence.

Christchurch is richly advantaged by the strong sporting culture that exists here. The solid sporting infrastructure, excellent facilities and environment combine to create a sound and exciting proposition for sporting excellence and leadership in the city and to ensure the city, the people, and their performances are prominent on the sporting landscape.

Recommendation:

- *The ASI commends the Council on its investment to date in the Centre of Excellence for sport and the facilities development at QE11.*
- *The development of this centre is significant locally, nationally and internationally, and consequently should be featured in the Christchurch city planning and promotional documents.*

I would appreciate the opportunity to talk to the main points in this submission at the hearing to be held between 28 May and 5 June.

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