

Christchurch City Council Draft Annual Plan/Draft LTCCP Plan

Submission May 2007

Sport Canterbury, as the section of the Canterbury West Coast Sports Trust (CWCST) operating in the Christchurch City Council area, wishes to make the following submission in relation to the two plans above. As our aim is to get more people, more physically active in our region, we work to facilitate physical activity in every form possible (sport, active recreation, daily living eg active transport) and our submission is made from this viewpoint.

Some over arching factors

1. Global warming

There seems little doubt that our planet is warming. Although scientists have been saying this for many years, now that an eminent economist has agreed with them, governments around the world have sprung into action. A reduction in carbon emissions (greenhouse gases including CO₂ are the main culprits) will be high on the agenda for all countries and the prospect of carbon trading and credits for a reduction in carbon emissions, will increasingly make the reduction in vehicle usage attractive. This will be accelerated by increases in the price of vehicle fuels.

2. Demographics

New Zealand has an aging population. According to Statistics NZ, the numbers of over 65s in the population will increase steadily through to about 2040 as the baby boomer generation flow through. By contrast the 15-64 age group, who have been increasing steadily in number over recent times will level off from about 2010-20. The 0-14 age group will remain fairly static in numbers or even decrease slightly.

Specific issues

1 Development Contributions Policy.

As fuel prices rise and incentives to reduce carbon emissions take effect, Christchurch residents will be seeking an ability to play sport and recreate with minimum travel requirements. Already the sports fields in Christchurch are under pressure from the numbers of children participating in sport especially during the week for primary school sport. Although many primary school children come into Hagley Park to compete once a week, Hagley is struggling to cope with the growing demand. The demand should become greater as the Active Schools programme, happening here and throughout the country, starts to really take effect. The city needs more reserves and parks especially in new suburbs where major developments are happening, to ensure the children's sporting needs are met. An adequate number of suburban parks will also ensure that traveling to compete in the future is minimised. Hagley Park will of course always be required and for many will be the closest venue. We would strongly support the proposal that

adequate reserves, parks and leisure facilities are planned and built in new developments and that these are largely contributed to in a financial sense, by these developments. As well providing vital areas in which residents can play sport near to their residences, they will also play an important part in providing areas where residents can be active in a non sporting way - active living by walking, cycling, walking the dog etc. With an aging population such community/local reserves and parks will be essential and the proposed change to the Development Contributions policy seems to ensure they will be planned and built.

2. Jade Stadium

Our organisation supports the Christchurch City Council's investment into Jade Stadium, not just for the Rugby World Cup but as an investment in high performance sport (as well as providing avenue for other large events) for the future. One aspect of the proposal which we particularly applaud is the investment into a Stadium Walk to link Jade Stadium to the central city. With the arrival of increased travel costs etc, more active transport will inevitably occur. Cycling and walking to get places will become more prevalent. To make it easier and more attractive to walk to Jade from the central city and the city transport hub, would be applauded. A combined cycling and walkway could be considered along with cycle stands at the Stadium.

Concluding comments

Sport Canterbury greatly values the excellent relationships it has with the Christchurch City Council and recognises that it can maximise its effectiveness by working closely with the Council on all matters where our interests coincide. While our City is well endowed with parks and reserves currently, we are growing rapidly and we predict that the demands on these will grow at a greater rate than the population grows, as the efforts to get people, more active, take effect. As a City we cannot rest on our laurels!

I would be very happy to talk to relevant staff/councilors regarding any issues raised in this submission

Selwyn Maister
Chief Executive