

Christchurch City

Update 2000

State of the Environment Monitoring Report

Environmental Policy and Planning Unit
Christchurch City Council
April 2000

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Foreword

Christchurch City Update 2000 presents a detailed picture of Christchurch at the end of the 20th century.

This comprehensive review tells us about the City's population, social patterns, economic conditions and changes in the natural and physical environment. We learn, for instance, that our ageing population is poised to make a major impact on our health and social services as the first "baby boomers" approach retirement towards the end of this decade. The report also tells us that most Christchurch residents think the City is a great place to live. Despite this, there are significant pressures that may adversely affect the environment and quality of life within the City.

Although Christchurch City Update reports have been primarily designed to assist the Council's planning and decision making, they have become a valuable information resource for the wider community in Christchurch and elsewhere. In February 2000 alone the Christchurch City Update web site received more than one thousand external hits, suggesting that there is considerable interest, both nationally and internationally, in our City.

Relevant, accurate information helps decision makers manage our City in ways that are ecologically, socially and economically sustainable. By monitoring the City's environment, Update 2000 provides a baseline against which we can measure our progress during future decades.

I would like to thank Corinne Macintyre and David Price for their efforts in compiling this report and also those who have contributed information, both within and outside the Council.



J.G Dryden
Environmental Policy and Planning Manager
April 2000

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Introduction to Christchurch City Update 2000

About This Report

Christchurch City Update 2000 is the fifth report on the state of the City's environment. It is a non-technical, descriptive report designed to provide community representatives, decision makers and the wider community with up-to-date information on Christchurch's demographic, environmental and economic trends and issues.

Topics included in this report are those known to be of interest to Christchurch people. They have been identified through ongoing consultation and discussion with a range of Council staff, elected members and the general public. A wide variety of other local and international monitoring programmes have also influenced the form and content of this report.

Christchurch City Update 2000 is produced as part of the Council's State of the Environment Monitoring Programme which was initiated during the mid-1990s. The programme was developed in response to the requirement under the Resource Management Act (1991) for territorial local authorities to monitor their environments. It has also been driven by the increasing need within local government for accurate information for decision making and policy development, and the community's growing appetite for information about the wider environment.

Future of This Report

The Council's State of the Environment report is expected to continue evolving in the future as the monitoring programme develops, new issues arise and our knowledge of environmental processes increases. It is anticipated that this report will be produced every two to five years. However, it will be supplemented by regular information releases on topical issues and other related research. These will remain widely accessible in both hard copy and on the internet.

How to Use This Report

Christchurch City Update 2000 can be used as a starting point for further research on a particular topic, as a tool to aid decision making and policy development, or simply as an information resource.

The report is divided into the following three major parts:

- The City's People;
- The City's Natural and Physical Environment; and
- The City's Economy.

Each part contains multiple subsections or chapters. A box at the beginning of each subsection provides a summary of the more detailed information presented within the text. This contains a mixture of trend and snapshot information.

A user guide is provided below.

Key Information	Why is this Useful?	What is Happening?
This summarises important information from within the text.	This places the 'Key Information' in context and helps the reader to think about the significance of the information.	This describes the current situation ie ↑ Increasing trend within the specified interval . ↓ Decreasing trend within the specified interval . - Flat trend. ~ No trend discernable ● Snapshot information only (ie data provided for one point in time only).

Other Related Sections:

This directs the reader to other parts of the report which may provide additional contextual information.

Acknowledgments

Christchurch City Update 2000 was prepared by Corinne Macintyre and David Price of the Environmental Policy and Planning Unit. It was edited by Jennie Hamilton and additional research and assistance was provided by Elizabeth Plew, Bruce King, Vicki Newbury and Heather Voaden.

Information used in this report has been obtained from within the Christchurch City Council and also from a wide variety of external sources including Statistics New Zealand, Environment Canterbury (formerly the Canterbury Regional Council), the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health Information Service, Quotable Value New Zealand, Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce, Fright Aubrey, the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research, the Canterbury Manufacturers' Association, the National Bank and the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research.

How to View this Report

Christchurch City Update 2000 is available both in hard copy from the Christchurch City Council and on the Council's web site at www.ccc.govt.nz/Update. It can also be viewed at a Council library or service centre.

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