

**7. NEW ZEALAND RECREATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE,
CHRISTCHURCH, SEPTEMBER 2001**

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Corporate Plan Output: Recreation Programmes and Promotion	

The purpose of this report is to provide additional information in support of our Annual Plan bid for \$10,000 for the New Zealand Recreation Association Annual National Conference, Christchurch, September 2001.

This large, national conference targets local authority leisure, parks and facilities staff, as well as planners/policy advisers, managers and politicians with an interest in the leisure area.

The conference has not been held in Christchurch for over ten years and is being staged in September 2001 before the next local body elections, so that interested elected representatives may attend.

As a predominantly local authority based conference it is usual for the main local authority in the host city in which the conference is to be held to play a significant role in supporting it. Neighbouring local authorities are also asked to provide some sponsorship support.

This conference will showcase many of Christchurch's latest developments and innovations, many of which have led to Christchurch City Council being regarded nationally as the leader in the leisure/parks area. These include the "Active Christchurch" programme, the Travis Wetland, Halswell Quarry, the new leisure facilities at Centennial and Pioneer, skatepark developments, etc.

Around 250 people will attend the conference over three days, with facilitated opportunities for them to stay on after the conference to experience Christchurch and all it has to offer. It is expected that many of the delegates will take up this opportunity, with downstream benefits to the city's tourist economy.

The total budget for the conference is in the order of \$180,000. It is estimated that around \$130,000 will be sourced from conference fees plus a further \$40-50,000 from local and national (NZRA negotiated) sponsorship support.

Sponsorship of \$10,000 will enable the Council to be one of the principal sponsors of the conference, with promotion on all conference material and at the conference venue. Sponsorship from the Council will also be used to fund aspects of the conference such as fieldtrips which will highlight Christchurch's achievements.

Should the conference make a significant profit the organising committee will return the \$10,000 funding to the Council.

Funding from the Council will enable a high quality conference to be delivered which will leave participants with a lasting positive impression of Christchurch city.

Leisure Unit Ranking 2