

19. CENTRAL CITY PRODUCE MARKET

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The purpose of this report is to seek authority from this Committee for the Central City Streets Subcommittee to consider and if appropriate recommend a decision to the May meeting of the Council concerning the commencement of Special Order procedures for street stopping and creating a pedestrian mall in one or more streets in the central city for the purposes of operating a weekend produce market.

Following presentations to a seminar meeting of the Council and a report through the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee to the April 2002 meeting of the Council, the Council resolved to further progress the establishment of a produce market in the central city. It decided, inter alia, to establish a Councillor subcommittee to:

“(a) Further consider the most appropriate site for the produce market, with a recommendation to the Council through the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee regarding the preferred site ...”

The proponents, Christchurch Market Ltd, are keen to progress this matter so that they can commence operation in October this year. The next step is to commence the necessary procedures to limit vehicular access to the site during the periods of market operation by creating a pedestrian mall through Special Order procedure, pursuant to Section 336 of the Local Government Act.

Last month’s decision provided for the Subcommittee (which is the Central City Streets Subcommittee plus the Mayor) to recommend to the Council, through the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee, the most appropriate site and the necessary legal steps. However, if this matter is considered by the Subcommittee and then has to wait until the next meeting of the Committee, a whole month would be lost. This could jeopardise the chances of an October start.

The solution, if the Committee is willing, would be to delegate to the Central City Streets Subcommittee authority to report directly to the May Council meeting, if possible, with a recommendation. It is understood that more than one site is under consideration, and the Subcommittee would need to consider whether one or more sites should be tested through the special order process.

Recommendation: That the Central City Streets Subcommittee consider the sites proposed for the central city produce market, and be given delegated authority to report, if possible, to the May 2002 meeting of the Council recommending the commencement of the necessary legal procedures.

Chairman’s Recommendation: Not seen by Chairman.