

31. AKAROA PLACES AND SPACES PLAN

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Community Board's endorsement of the final Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan to the Council for adoption (**Attachment A** – separately circulated), including approval of the proposed amendments to the recommended actions (**Attachment B** – separately circulated), following the consultation process undertaken from 30 August 2010 to 22 October 2010.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan is a non-statutory document, which provides a strategic direction for how public places and spaces in Akaroa are developed and managed into the future. More specifically, the Plan provides guidance and recommendations for management of the public realm in Akaroa township, ensuring that public places reflect the local character, and provide for ease of access and movement. The preparation of this Plan was identified as a high priority project in the Akaroa Harbour Basin Settlements Study (AHBSS) Implementation Plan.
3. The physical scope of the public places and spaces addressed in the draft Plan is limited to the Akaroa Township, with a specific focus on those areas of the public realm used most frequently by residents and visitors, i.e. the Akaroa Town Centre.
4. Issues, guidelines and recommendations for the following four components are set out in the draft Plan:
 - *Public Realm Guidelines*: The public realm guidelines underpin the entire plan by providing direction for future public works in Akaroa.
 - *Transport and access*: A report on transport and access issues has been prepared for Akaroa. This section of the draft Plan summarises the issues, objectives and recommendations in that report.
 - *Visitor facilities*: An assessment of visitor facilities in Akaroa and their ability to meet long-term visitor needs has been undertaken. This section identifies actions to upgrade the existing facilities subject to increased visitor numbers.
 - *BP Meat site development brief*: This part of the draft Plan provides guidance regarding the future development of the BP Meats site (67 Rue Lavaud), a large block of Council-owned land in the Akaroa Town Centre.
5. The draft Plan was approved for public consultation by the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board on 11 June 2010. The consultation process has occurred in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).
6. Public consultation commenced on 30 August 2010 and closed 22 October 2010 after an extension due to the September 4 Canterbury earthquake. Thirty-three (33) submissions were received and key themes from those submissions were identified and analysed (refer to Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan Consultation Report - **Attachment C** separately circulated).
7. Overall, submissions on the draft Plan are supportive. The main concerns are with regard to Visitor Facilities and Transport and Access. Below is a summary of feedback received under the four components of the Plan:
 - a. *Public Realm Guidelines*

The action point for the Public Realm Design Guidelines is to finalise and implement the design guidelines. The public is aware that these guidelines will be developed and used by the Council and public to produce good environmental outcomes, in regards to visual amenity and the design of new structures located within the public realm.

Submissions and feedback received will assist the Council in identifying areas of concern or issues, such as signage and landscaping, when developing the design guidelines.

b. Transport and access

Submissions on the action points for this component are generally supported. All submitters stated that parking at the northern end of the town should be actively encouraged, and walking or cycling as a mode of public access should be made available (refer to Action B.1 of the draft Plan). A shuttle service is supported to encourage parking outside the main town centre to enable greater flow of traffic.

The use of Jubilee Park for car parking purposes (refer to Action B.2 of draft Plan) and the provision of bus parking near the wharf (refer to Action B.3 of draft Plan) are not supported by submitters. They also did not support the use of the recreation grounds for parking (refer to Actions B.4 and B.6 of the draft Plan).

Options for increasing parking capacity in the Southern Town Centre (refer to Action B.9 of draft Plan) are supported by way of using an existing area, such as the Akaroa Area School grounds during peak season when the school is not in operation, as well as some innovative suggestions for reclamation of land for parking purposes at the southern end of town.

On this basis, amendments to the recommended actions for the final Plan are proposed.

c. Visitor facilities

Submissions support the upgrade and/or modernisation of public toilets (refer to Actions C.1-5 of draft Plan). In addition, submitters expressed the need for a more regular schedule in the cleaning of public toilets during peak season.

Several submitters also support the increase in the number of seating/tables within the reserves and parks for picnic purposes (Actions C.15-16 of draft Plan), with some support for barbecue facilities.

The majority of submitters do not support the provision of a bus stop or passenger drop off/pick up at the Main Wharf. Campervan issues and concerns are still at the forefront of community thinking, although there is a general acceptance that they provide an economic input to Akaroa. Additional facilities such as coin-operated showers/laundry and a community leisure centre (swimming pool, gym) are also identified as a need by the submitters.

This feedback will be considered in the development of the Akaroa Places and Spaces Implementation Plan.

d. BP Meat site development brief

Submissions generally support the two actions proposed under this component. A community focus that would encourage tourism, such as artisan quarters, is strongly suggested for any potential use of the site. There is strong support for the retention of the existing heritage-listed building and the butchery business on the site.

This feedback will assist the Council in considering the future development of this site. More detailed consultation will be undertaken in the near future.

8. Following consultation and based on the analysis of submissions received, **Attachment C** shows a summary of amendments proposed for the final Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The final Plan identifies projects to be put forward for consideration in the 2012-2022 and/or subsequent Long-Term Plans (LTPs). The timing, scale and funding of any or all projects will be determined as part of the LTP and be considered alongside a range of other spending priorities.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

10. No. The recommended actions identified in the final Plan are to be considered as part of the preparation of the 2012-22 LTP or a subsequent version of the LTP.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

11. The Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan is a non-statutory document. Consultation on the document has been consistent with Local Government Act requirements.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTP?

12. The Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan supports the LTP activity 'City and Community Long-Term Policy and Planning'.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

13. The Plan recognises and supports strategies where relevant to the scope of the Plan, particularly the Public Open Space Strategy and the Christchurch Visitor Strategy.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

14. The Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan was identified as a priority project in the Akaroa Harbour Basin Settlements Study completed in 2009. This study involved extensive consultation. Information obtained through previous consultation on the Settlements Study has also informed the development of the Plan.
15. The Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board was consulted on the draft Plan in a seminar held earlier this year. Feedback from the Community Board was incorporated into the draft Plan, where relevant, and subsequently went out to public consultation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board recommend to the Council that it:

- (a) Approve the proposed amendments for the final Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan (**Attachment B**); and
- (b) Adopt the final Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan (**Attachment A**).