

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SUBMISSIONS PANEL MEETING

**Held in the Council Chamber
on Thursday 14 October at 2.15 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor Sue Wells (Chairperson),
Councillor Chrissie Williams (Deputy Chairperson),
Councillors Bob Shearing and Mike Wall.

APOLOGIES: No apologies were received.

Councillor Shearing was absent from 2.40 pm and was not present for part of clause 1 and all of clause 2.

1. DRAFT LAND TRANSPORT RULE: LAND TRANSPORT (ROAD USER) AMENDMENT RULE (2009) (2.15 – 3.26 pm)

The Panel considered and approved the draft submission (attached to these minutes) with the following amendments:

1. Limit the use of hand-held mobile phones while driving (new clause 7.3A)

The Council agrees to the proposal that hand-held mobile telephones are banned while driving (new clause 7.3A), but clarify that “the banning of hand-held mobile devices **while driving** is a pragmatic approach to enhancing road safety”.

11. Parking a vehicle off-roadway (revoke and replace with new clause 6.2)

The Panel agreed to the proposed amendment which means that, unless the Council indicates otherwise by means of signs or markings, a driver or person in charge of a vehicle must not stop, stand, or park a motor vehicle on a grassed area or other cultivation forming part of a road that is within an urban traffic area where an urban traffic area is defined as an area which is subject to a speed limit of 50 kph.

The Panel recommended that the proposed amendment apply to urban areas with speed limits of 60 kph or lower. The Panel recommended that the draft submission also be strengthened by the addition of further data, practical implications, and discussed clarification of the definitions of “verge” and “riverbank”.

20. Use of motorcycle and moped lights during daylight hours (amend clause 8.3)

The Panel supports the proposed amendment motorcycle and moped lights be used during daylight hours but recommended that the question be raised if there are any proposals to consider a similar rule for motor vehicles.

27. Additional Issue for Consideration - Priority for buses when signalling to leave stop

The Panel supports this additional recommendation of staff that there should be priority for buses when signalling to leave a stop where some onus rests with the bus driver to assess the situation before pulling away.

The Panel recommended that the draft submission be strengthened and the fact that the Council has passed a number of resolutions in the past to this effect be raised.

28. Additional Issue for Consideration - Right-hand Give-way Rule

The Panel recommended that the staff recommendation to consider amending the current right-hand give way rules be delayed. This issue was not raised in the draft amendment rule. The Panel recommended that this issue be noted in the Chairperson's oral report to Council, and forwarded to the Road Safety Coordinating Committee for consideration, and if appropriate at a later date, more information could be provided to Council.

29. Additional Issue for Consideration - Parking of Heavy Vehicles in Residential Streets

The Panel recommended that the staff's proposed new subclause 6.2(3) not be submitted, that provides, unless indicated by the controlling authority, a heavy vehicle must not park in a residential area.

30. Additional Issue for Consideration – Passing on the Right (clause 2.7)

The Panel endorsed the proposed staff recommendation that clause 2.7(b)(i) be amended so that a motorist can only drive along a flush median if the driver “intends to turn right within a distance of 50 metres from a road marked with the flush median into another road or vehicle entrance”.

However, the Panel recommended that this issue be dealt with by way of a letter to NZTA from the chief executive requesting its inclusion in the next instalment of transport rule changes.

31. Additional Issue for Consideration – Obstructing vehicle entrances and exits (clause 6.9)

The Panel endorsed the proposed staff recommendation that the current rule prohibiting a driver from stopping in a driveway, and thus obstructing entry and exit, be extended to so that a similar restriction applies in respect of kerb crossings installed for pedestrians or cyclists.

However, the Panel recommended that this issue also be included in a letter from the chief executive to the New Zealand Transport Agency requesting its inclusion in the next instalment of transport rule changes.

32. Additional Issue for Consideration – Driver Responsibility and Occupant Protection (clause 7.6, 7.7, and 7.8)

The Panel recommended that the staff recommendation to consider amending the road user rules so that the booster seats are necessary for passengers until they reach a specified height be delayed. This issue was not raised in the draft amendment rule. The Panel recommended that this issue be considered further by the Christchurch Road Safety Coordinating Committee and, if necessary, more information could be provided to Council.

2. NATIONAL ALCOHOL ACTION PLAN: CONSULTATION DOCUMENT
(3.27 – 3.56 pm)

The Panel considered and did not approve the draft submission. The Panel decided that staff would draft a letter to be adopted by the Council at its meeting on 30 October 2008 to the Ministry of Health outlining the following points in relation the proposed National Alcohol Action Plan (the Action Plan):

- It is unclear what the document is trying to achieve.
- As a result of proposed new legislation, the resulting territorial authority alcohol policies are likely to result from the legislation changes, and the Law Commission’s First Principles review on the timing of the implementation of this plan is premature and should be put on hold. The Plan, like Local Authorities’ Alcohol Policies, should give effect to legislative change not lead it.
- The primary goal should be “to make individuals responsible for their actions and for society to find alcohol abuse unacceptable”.
- The draft Action Plan, like Local Authorities’ Alcohol Policies, should underpin legislative change not lead to it.
- The draft Action Plan, in the Council’s view, does not use strong enough language and it does not clearly identify if alcohol is just another drug.
- It is the Council’s view that the draft Action Plan is fundamentally on the wrong track and is more an action plan for government and other agencies rather than changing individual behaviours.

3. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Submissions Panel was not confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 3.56 pm.