

# CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

## Draft LTCCP 2009-19

**- Received via Web**

Submissions close on 16 April 2009

**I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Monday 11 May 2009 and Monday 18 May 2009.**

**Are you completing this submission:**

On behalf of a group or organisation

**If you are representing, how many people do you represent?**

12

**Name:**

Ian Brown

**Organisation Name:**

Banks Peninsula Ecological study Steering Group

**Organisation Role:**

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**Date:**

14 April 2009

**Your Submission:**

To whom it may concern

As a result of a negotiated agreement and an Environment Court Consent Order, the Christchurch City Council is committed to undertake a survey to identify significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna on Banks Peninsula. Under the Consent Order, the Council was also required to establish a broad based community steering group, (Banks Peninsula Ecological study Steering Group), to oversee the study and assist the Council with input and advice.

The Steering Group understands and accepts the council's interpretation of the Consent Order which binds the council to undertaking an ecological survey on the Peninsula. It also appreciates that the council is constrained in the extent to which it can directly support rural landowners to protect biodiversity.

The group acknowledges that by providing advice to landowners on biodiversity matters, assisting with funding applications to the Department of Conservations Biodiversity Condition Fund, and providing funding to the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, that the council is already making a valuable contribution towards protecting biodiversity on the Peninsula. However, the Steering Group still has reservations as to whether this will be enough to achieve the degree of protection that will be required.

With sites of high biodiversity value the onus for protection and enhancement falls heavily on individual landowners. Often the shortfall even after successful applications to the Biodiversity Condition Fund and other

bodies still exceeds the landowner's ability to provide funding. Delays threaten a successful outcome potentially resulting in irreparable losses to local biodiversity.

Policy Target 1.2.3 in the council's Biodiversity strategy states:

"Management of biodiversity on private land is appropriately supported"

Target 1.2.3 Biodiversity Strategy Actions are;

Action 1: Technical advice is made available to landowners.

Action 2: Council provides for rates rebates on land covenanted for biodiversity protection purposes

Action 3: Council provides contestable grants for biodiversity conservation work on private land.

Action 4: Council supports the work of Conservation Trusts in the covenanting of private land for biodiversity protection.

Action 5: Biodiversity technical & site management support is available to landowners on properties containing priority habitat within acutely and chronically threatened land environments."

In order to enact this policy, the Steering Group asks:

That the council as part of the LTCCP submission process considers the establishment of a contestable fund separate from the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust and QE II Trust funding and that this funding be available to individual landowners.

In making this request the Steering Group believes that the provision of direct funding will be necessary in order to achieve the type of biodiversity outcomes that the council wishes to achieve on the Peninsula.

The group believes that a contestable fund is the most cost effective and equitable way of providing funding for conservation works. Access to such a fund need not be restricted to landowners on Banks Peninsula. Indeed, in the spirit of the City's Biodiversity Strategy access to such funding should be open to all landowners who are endeavouring to protect the biodiversity on their properties.

The Steering Group would like to speak in support of this submission.

Yours sincerely

Ian Brown  
Facilitator  
Banks Peninsula Ecological Study Steering group