

**CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL DRAFT LTCCP 2009-19****SUBMISSION**

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I would like to discuss the main points of my submission at the hearing.

**I want the council to bring forward to the coming financial year, the development of the water and wastewater systems for Little River.**

The council have set timetables for these community facilities for many years only to defer them, defer them and defer them again. You cannot plan anything and have any confidence in a council that makes plans and then does not stick to them.

We have been planning a tourist development at Little River for 2.5 years and now have resource consents from the council after 2.25 years, a very long time for what is a relatively insignificant project with environmental effects that are far less than minor. If we proceed with our development we are faced with putting in our own water supply and wastewater scheme at a significant cost and then having them rendered redundant if the council proceeds with community schemes in the future.

Little River desperately needs a sewage scheme. On the north side of our property is a malfunctioning septic tank which flows across our property to a drain and hence to the Okana River and Lake Forsyth. It is highly likely that there are many similar situations in the Lake Forsyth catchment. Because this septic tank has been malfunctioning for many years, I have no confidence in the monitoring programmes for septic tanks in the area.

The Christchurch Little River Railtrail relies partly on the attractiveness of Lake Forsyth, but the lake is becoming a cesspit. The nutrient contaminants arriving at the lake and causing it to be hyperactive need to be substantially reduced and perhaps the frequency of algal blooms would decline and the consequent risk to human health if the public comes in contact with the water. It is certainly not a good image having public notices up warning people of the dangers of the water in the lake.

It seems ridiculous to me that the council would spend some \$30,000 per year trucking sewage from the toilets at Little River and at the same time condoning the deterioration of Lake Forsyth. Action needs to be taken now, not to be continually postponed.

**I want the council to buy-in to a vision for the extension of the Christchurch-Little River Railtrail facility.**

The community will have spent between \$3 and \$4 million on the Christchurch Little River Railtrail by the time it is completed, but the infrastructure is not there to support its development as a tourist facility and the distance is too short. It is reported, that there are some 60 businesses dependant on the Otago Railtrail facility. Businesses based on the Christchurch Little River Railtrail would provide a return on the community's investment through taxes and rates paid and provide the impetus for continuing improvement and extension of the railtrail.

I have a vision for the railtrail facility, which I have been working on for some 10 years now, that the trail should start from CHCH Airport, proceed to Little River and then via western valley, the monument track, Diamond Harbour, ferry across Lyttelton Harbour and back through Christchurch to the airport. I believe that this route, promoted well, has the potential to become an extremely important tourism facility for Christchurch. It traverses a much more diverse and interesting scenic route than the Otago facility al-be-it that it has one or two testing hill climbs depending on the route chosen. However, for this vision to be realised it requires the Christchurch City Council's buy-in and this has been frustratingly difficult to achieve to date.

**In summary, I am requesting that the council in its LTCCP:**

- (1) expedites the sewage and water supply schemes for Little River; and
- (2) provides for and promotes a cycling and walking route based on the Christchurch Little River Railtrail, as a round trip starting and ending at Christchurch airport, and designed to attract National and International tourists to Christchurch and show off the best of the scenery that Banks Peninsula and Christchurch City has to offer, in a way that is environmentally sound.

*C. Mason*

Craig Mason  
12/4/2009