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# 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:

For yourself

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

Name:

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Date:

16 April 2009

Your Submission:

Christchurch City Council  
Draft for LTCCP 2009 - 2019

Contact Kay Witte  
Submission  
ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION.

Disposal of Wastewater In Lyttelton Harbour Basin.  
Respectfully improve understanding and communications to achieve and maintain a sustainable working rural community.

I understand Council are considering applying human effluent wastewater to land, as an option for disposal in the Lyttelton Harbour Basin.

I find this unsustainable, unacceptable, and misguided.

The limited availability of sufficient land area does not fit with a sustainable system.

When excess moisture is applied to prevailing unstable soil structure, sloping hillsides and low lying flat land leaching of waste into the harbour basin will become a high risk.

The Working Party Engineers reports suggests that land application, although technically possible is not practicable and land application is not his recommended choice of disposal here.

Fragmented areas of duplicated infrastructure will inevitably be extremely costly in establishment and maintenance, as indicated by the costings of both options. Whereas utilising a central system will bring major monetary savings and enable further development of expertise in a central, sustainable system.

The existing working rural environment has been cared for and maintained by generations of families. The working rural environment contributes to the rural atmosphere and is valued by all who walk, cycle, hike, and drive through this area.

Presently land use is production of food for human consumption both locally and for export. This same land is being considered for the storage of human wastewater in large open ponds until it can be spread to ground. Soils would receive the waste in order to filter out such contents as bacteria, viruses and pharmaceuticals. This practice would render the land inappropriate for the growing of food for human consumption.

As stated in the district plan, "Agricultural productive land has more recently become the most visually dominant aesthetic component of Banks Peninsula landscape, and is a key element of the landscape as we know it today. This is a major contributor to its outstanding character. As such, it is a significant resource which must be managed sustainably.. Land use in rural landscape is evolving over the years the current pattern of pastoral sheep and beef farming and horticulture is part of this evolution. In time these activities may be succeeded by others. Land use is not static",

Among other criteria the preservation of healthy soils is paramount for future generations to continue farming and producing quality, safe, food for human consumption..

The cost and investment in establishing the infrastructure, building wastewater ponds and effluent disposal systems and the contamination of the soils means total commitment. This land use choice is irreversible, and prevents any other alternative use for this farm land ever.

#### WHAT SHOULD THE COUNCIL DO.

I would urge the council to remove altogether any possibility of application of human waste effluent to land in the Lyttelton Harbour Basin.

To recognise that the terrain is unsuitable with under runners and unstable soils.

To acknowledge Engineers report that piping Harbour Basin Effluent to join Christchurch system is the recommended option.

To realise that in this instance, in this area of land formation, the use of human waste water to land is not a resource but a risk.

To link the Lyttelton Harbour Basin Area into treatment and disposal systems in Christchurch that are centralised. Utilising the existing expertise and infrastructure already in place in Christchurch to achieve a sustainable system.

Council future planning should acknowledge the importance of Agriculture and the contribution that a working rural environment has in maintaining the outstanding character of rural landscape at such a proximity to the city for all to enjoy.

Council should consult with rural dwellers to understand the long term and irreversible impact some changes have on rural lands, and both the monetary costs, and the cost to community values, these changes can bring.

We need council to listen to the smaller number of voices in sparse rural communities, to recognise the strong sense of belonging people have to the land.

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