

We, the undersigned, fully support the draft Long Term Council Community Plan 2009 -19 (LTCCP) in respect of the proposal to play Test and provincial cricket at Hagley Oval.

We support the proposal because:

1. Cricket is New Zealand's major summer sport and is our second most popular national sport. In Canterbury alone there are approximately 1200 teams belonging to the Canterbury Cricket Association and the various clubs and members of Canterbury Cricket Association boast approximately 19,000 members.
2. Hagley Oval is the historical and spiritual home of cricket in Canterbury and cricket has been identified and documented as being the cornerstone of sporting activity on the Oval.
3. The Oval is recognised in the 1991 Hagley Park Management Plan as "providing a unique sports ground which is ideally suited to cricket"... and Hagley Oval shall be used exclusively as a venue for cricket with no winter sports usage."
4. Hagley Oval presents an unique opportunity to have club, representative and test cricket on the same venue in Canterbury.
5. Cricket has suffered considerably during the past ten years with having no appropriate facilities for Test cricket in Christchurch. Until the mid 1990's cricket shared equal rights with rugby at the then Lancaster Park (now AMI Stadium) these rights were enshrined in statute under the Victory Park Board Act 1919.
6. With the encroachment of rugby into the traditional cricket season by virtue of the Super 14 competition and the necessity to ensure that rugby had appropriate fully refurbished stadia, it was no longer appropriate or possible to play Test Match cricket at AMI Stadium. This was endorsed by New Zealand Cricket when they decided to play its Test Matches at grounds that are principally dedicated to cricket needs with enhanced presentation capabilities that make them more attractive venues for the players, the public and TV viewers. Stadia configured for winter sport requirements are excluded.
7. The proposed Test and provincial ground at Hagley has the support of Vbase, New Zealand Cricket and Canterbury Cricket. With appropriate funding from the Christchurch City Council and with appropriate support funding from cricket itself Hagley will provide Christchurch with a top quality Test and provincial cricket venue that will be of significant benefit to Canterbury and New Zealand Cricket, Christchurch business, sporting and community groups at large.
8. Hagley Oval offers one of the most attractive and aesthetically suitable venues for Test and provincial cricket in this city. The site of Hagley Oval being viewed worldwide as a venue for cricket in this city would have overwhelming social and economic benefits for this country.

9. Hagley Oval is situated in close proximity to the business and hospitality areas of Christchurch. Its proximity mirrors many other famous and successful cricket Test grounds around the world (Wellington, Brisbane, Sydney, Perth, Melbourne, Adelaide, London, Manchester, Nottingham, Birmingham and Leeds to name a few). Hagley's central location would provide significant benefits to the city from tourists, visitors and other local patrons, unlike any other venue located at some distance from the central city. Refer to Wellington city's economic and social benefits as a result of the close proximity of the Basin Reserve and Westpac Stadium to downtown Wellington.
10. A centrally located facility in the beautiful surroundings of Hagley Oval for international and provincial cricket can only but enhance support for the game including sponsorship and other support that in today's times every sport needs for its healthy continuation and survival.
11. Hagley's central location provides easy access to young and old alike without the necessity of relying on vehicular or expensive transport which venues on the outskirts of town would otherwise demand.

Dated at __Westport____ the 8th _____ day of __April____ 2009

Buller Cricket Association

Norman Crawshaw
Secretary