

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL Draft LTCCP 2009-19

- Received via Web

Submissions close on 16 April 2009

I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered

Are you completing this submission:

For yourself

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

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15 April 2009

Your Submission:

Test cricket facilities at Hagley Oval.

I am currently the President of the Canterbury Cricket Association [CCA]. I have been involved in the preparation of and passionately support the CCA submission made by its Chief Executive Officer, Lee Germon. It is not helpful for me to repeat the substance of the CCA submission here but please be assured of my unreserved support for all of the points made.

I send this submission to Council in an individual capacity, and in particular, from the perspective of a cricket broadcaster for provincial and international cricket matches in Canterbury - and elsewhere - since 1966. I will focus on two points that I have heard raised in opposition to the proposal in the LTCCP 2009-19; change of use and parking.

The possible issue of change of use: Hagley Oval, within Hagley Park, has been designed for cricket and has been used, almost exclusively, for this purpose for as long as any of us will be able to remember. It is a wonderful asset to the city.

But its potential to the city has been limited for many years by the use of the Oval predominantly as one of the bases for Christchurch club cricket. True, we have enjoyed some under-age and provincial cricket there - who will forget the pleasure of the Canterbury match against the England touring team in 2002 which prompted a New Zealand journalist to comment, "It defies logic, and the best intentions of the city planners who designated Hagley Park for the community's recreation, that there is no place for a possible representative venue at the Park."

The proposal in the draft LTCCP 2009-19 does not change the use; it provides an outstanding direction to enhance the existing use by adding another two tiers, provincial cricket matches and international test cricket matches to the current third-tier use by club cricket. It is indeed fortunate that there is space for all three levels to co-exist.

The possible issue of lack of car parking space: This has been raised but it should not be seen as an issue. Sports grounds in New Zealand have not in the past and certainly should not in the future be required to cater for those who believe it is their right to bring vehicles to the front door of the venue. What parking options are available at Eden Park or the Basin Reserve - or AMI Stadium?? And it is no different at Lords or the Melbourne Cricket Ground?

The use of public transport, possibly enhanced to meet demand, can provide the travel options for almost all of those attending matches at Hagley Oval. And, of course, one of the special appeals of Hagley Oval as a venue is that it is within easy walking distance of the centre of the city. This is a priceless asset that has been the core of the success of those sports complexes that have generated massive community support.

Over the past two months we have had the privilege of being able to see the star-studded Indian cricket team in New Zealand. One of the delights was to see legends like Tendulkar and Dravid walking between their accommodation and the test match ground each day, stopping for coffee or, in one case that I know of, for kebabs. Where else in the world could they do that?

The pleasure of sharing in this is denied people in Christchurch because the city will not be allocated test matches until it has a suitably appointed test match ground. Hagley is the perfect venue for this function and for provincial representative cricket as well as the existing use of club cricket. Now is the only chance that will be available to have Hagley Oval confirmed as the permanent home of cricket in Christchurch and Canterbury.

I urge all members of Council to provide their full support to the proposal to allocate \$1m over 2010-11 to develop test cricket facilities at Hagley Oval as proposed in the draft LTCCP 2009-19.

I would be pleased to provide any further information if it would help Council.