

22 Warren Crescent  
Hillmorton  
Christchurch 8025

20 April 2009

Mayor Bob Parker  
Civic Offices  
Email: bob.parker@ccc.govt.nz  
PO Box 237  
Christchurch 8140

Dear Mr Mayor

Thank you for your letter of 3 March 2009 with additional information arising from my queries/comments during your Forum at the Halswell Library.

Regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> item **Akaroa Beach Cleaning** - I wish to advise that on Friday, 6 March 2009, my mother, sisters and I spent a pleasant, very warm, sunny, calm day in Akaroa - departing for Christchurch around 7pm.

Sadly, we were dismayed and disgusted with the ugly condition of the entire beach area:

- A Inshore the seawater edge was full of debris and brownish land weed covered the wet sand and appeared to be a few days old
- B From the mouth of the large concrete pipe stormwater has washed away much sand. Additional clean sand would be an improvement
- C Although keeping an eye out for the beach cleaning contractor - as indicated in your letter "the beach is required to be cleaned on Mondays and Fridays" no such cleaning took place that day, and with the obvious buildup of debris inshore and the uninviting appearance of the entire beach, nor on the previous Monday
- D The bald patches in the grassed area alongside the footpath further downgrade this beach area
- E In spite of the lovely day (few people swimming to the raft and back) we couldn't bring ourselves to sit and relax on the grubby dry sand let alone paddle in the unclean inshore sea.

We urge the Council to consider urgently upgrading and maintaining to a high standard the cleanliness and upkeep of this safe little beach and its immediate surroundings – it is an embarrassment to local shopkeepers we spoke to and to people like us who love Akaroa. We are too ashamed to take overseas and North Island visitors to such a shabby beach.

We also urge Council to budget forthwith for the removal of the unsightly large concrete pipe and for the study, planning and installation of a sustainable stormwater discharge alternative elsewhere, which would significantly enhance the character and charm of this visual amenity.

Is not Council required to pursue a balance between meeting its environmental responsibilities and addressing the essential needs and well-being of its community and tourists. A article on Tourism in the The Press 11/4/09 stated that "International tourists spent nearly \$9 billion in NZ in 2007, making it our largest foreign exchange earner" and that "tourism contributes about 5% of gross domestic product, making it comparable to agriculture in its direct contribution to our economy."

Large and small beaches in the North Island and on the Sunshine and Gold Coasts in Queensland, Australia, we are familiar with, are kept in tiptop order.

On the Sunshine and Gold Coasts the dry sand is thoroughly and deeply groomed early morning about every second day – absolutely cleaned of any debris. Just one person on a small type of tractor with deep forks attached. The surroundings, too, are very well designed and people friendly – maintenance and cleanliness is usually of a high standard.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Crawford