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**Office of Hon Clayton Cosgrove**  
**Member of Parliament for Waimakariri**

**Deputy Chairperson of the Law & Order Select Committee**

**Labour Party Spokesperson for:**  
**Law & Order, Police, Corrections & State Owned Enterprises**  
**Associate Spokesperson for Finance**

**FACSIMILE**

**FOR: Jocye Maria Soosai - Christchurch City Council**  
**FAX NO: 03 941 8337**  
**FROM: Willie Boyack**  
**FAX NO:**  
**DATE: 16 April 2009**  
**SUBJECT: Submissions on CCC LTCCP**  
**PAGES (including cover sheet): 3**

**Message**

Good afternoon

Please find attached two submissions on the CCC LTCCP from the Member of Parliament for Waimakariri Clayton Cosgrove.

Many thanks

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**16 April 2009**

**Submission to Christchurch City Council on the Draft Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) 2009-2019 concerning changes to Early Learning Centres.**

I am writing in my capacity as the Member of Parliament for Waimakariri to voice my opposition to any changes that would allow Christchurch City Council to alter their current lease agreements with Christchurch wide not for profit Early Childhood Education Centres (ECE).

Many not for profit Early Childhood Education Centres have enjoyed a successful leasehold agreement with the Council over an extended period, many over a period of decades, where they pay rent for the use of Council owned land and receive an equivalent grant from the Council in return. I am concerned that changes to current lease agreements where ECEs would be charged market rents but wouldn't receive a grant in return would negatively impact upon many not for profit Early Education Childhood Centres.

Current lease agreements where not for profit ECEs pay rent and receive a grant from the Council in return, provide certainty of funding, allowing not for profit ECEs to properly manage their limited budgets and provide lower socio-economic areas with proper access to affordable early childhood centres.

With many longstanding lease agreements due for renewal in 2010, any move to alter this agreement and to charge either higher rental fees or market rents with no return grant from the Council would force some ECEs to raise fees, cut back staff, and for some possible closure.

The ambiguous response from the Council so far has done little to ease the fears of many Early Childhood Centres that significant changes to their lease agreements are being planned. As the Mayor has pointed out the 'process around lease renewal is that negotiations will start happening with the ECEs on an individual basis in 2009' after 'the individual circumstances of the ECE are taken into account'. Such a process leaves smaller ECEs open to the possibility of having their rents unfairly increased.

That is extremely concerning for many ECEs which have enjoyed a good relationship with the Christchurch City Council - some for a period of 20 years or more.

Not for profit Early Childhood Education Centres are hugely important to our communities and provide a great service to our young children and a supportive environment to their wider families.

One solution would be to include in the Council's budget plan a specific line item with money set aside for the rental agreements with Early Childhood Centres to ensure the status quo remains in terms of their current rental agreements.

I therefore urge the Council to take appropriate action to ensure that current lease agreements with not for profit Early Childhood Learning Centres are upheld.

Yours sincerely

Hon Clayton Cosgrove  
Member of Parliament for Waimakariri

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T: [04] 471 0900

**16 April 2009****Submission to Christchurch City Council on the Draft Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) 2009-2019 concerning the Belfast Pool.**

I am writing in my capacity as the Member of Parliament for Waimakariri to voice my concern with the decision of the Christchurch City Council not to include the planned upgrade of Belfast pool in the Long Term Council Community Plan 2009/2019 (LTCCP).

The decision to remove the planned upgrade of Belfast pool from the Council's long term plan is disappointing and creates uncertainty around the long term future of Belfast pool.

Considering undertakings had been given that the plan to upgrade Belfast Pool was likely to proceed, it is regrettable that the Council has decided that 'other projects had a greater priority'.

Whilst the Council has agreed to look at an alternative 'lower cost' option, it remains the preference of the Belfast Community to persist with the original plan that was submitted as part of the Council's 2009/2019 LTCCP process - estimated to cost \$150,000. This would provide the community with certainty over the future of the pool and allow Belfast School to properly prepare for the taking over of the management of the pool.

As there is absolutely no guarantee that a lower cost option will receive the appropriate level of funding required to bring the pool up to an acceptable safety standard - as funding would have to be met from existing budgets - there is concern that a lower cost option will not meet the needs of Belfast School and the wider Belfast Community.

It is important to the people of Belfast that they have access to a local pool that is safe, well run, and accessible to the community. The original upgrade considered by the Council meets that need. However, it is unclear that a lower cost option will appropriately meet that need.

As Belfast is a rapidly growing area it is imperative that the level of community amenities and recreational facilities appropriately reflects this growth so that residents' have adequate access to recreational facilities. This is relatively pressing considering Belfast residents have identified that Belfast currently has a lack of appropriate recreational facilities.

We have received advice from the Council that unlike other pools in the City - the Belfast Pool is structurally sound and not in need of repair. The lower cost option will not shallow enough of the pool to properly enable the younger pupils of Belfast School to safely use the pool. The purpose of upgrading Belfast pool is to enable the children of Belfast School and the wider Belfast community to have proper access to a community pool.

Community pools like the one in Belfast provide a great leisure activity, which help to keep our kids fit and healthy over the summer months. There is strong community support to ensure Belfast's pool remains open, well maintained and accessible to the general public.

I therefore urge the Council to reconsider its decision to exclude the planned upgrade of Belfast Pool from the 2009-2019 LTCCP.

Yours sincerely

Hon Clayton Cosgrove  
Member of Parliament for Waimakariri