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16 April 2009

Christchurch City Council  
Tuam Street  
CHRISTCHURCH

**Submission to Long Term Council Community Plan**

Attached submission to Long term Council Community Plan from Canterbury Netball Inc, Team Canterbury Netball Ltd, Christchurch Netball Centre Inc, supported by Netball New Zealand.

We request a time to talk to this submission.

An electronic version of the attached document is available on request.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kay Norris".

Kay Norris  
Regional Manager



**RESPONSE TO THE**

**CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL DRAFT**

**LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN 2009**

**BY**

**CANTERBURY NETBALL INCORPORATED**

**TEAM CANTERBURY NETBALL LTD**  
**(TRADING AS MERCURY ENERGY TACTIX)**

**CHRISTCHURCH NETBALL CENTRE INCORPORATED**

**NETBALL NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED**

Kay Norris, Regional Manager, Canterbury Netball  
Andrew Hercus, Acting CEO, Team Canterbury Netball Ltd (Mercury Energy Tactix)  
Lyn Miles, President, Christchurch Netball Centre

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Netball believes that critical issues that have not been addressed in the draft Long Term Council Community Plan are the lack of planning for a multi use sport facility with space equating to up to 8 indoor netball courts with a spectator seating capacity for 2500 – 3000 people. This is in spite of The Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan 2008 identifying an indoor stadium as the number one PRIORITY facility for sport in Christchurch.

### **ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED FOR NETBALL:**

- Availability of a venue that allows netball to be played safely at all levels regardless of weather conditions
- Inability to host tournaments or national competitions from Age group to elite level, Christchurch has not hosted such an event for over 10 years. These events are regularly held in 2<sup>nd</sup> tier cities such as Invercargill, Palmerston North, Rotorua, Dunedin, Tauranga
- Lack of pathway, due to lack of facilities, for grassroots players who aspire to higher honours
- That netball receives no council funding but has, at request of council, spent a considerable sum on feasibility studies and other documentation.
- That netball will now be faced with costs in excess of \$500,000 to upgrade existing outdoor facilities that no longer reach the standard required by the game.
- Lack of existing indoor venues available for scheduled team trainings and practice games.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### ***Need for a multi use stadium***

It is noted that this will be a multi use stadium and would be used by Netball, Cricket, Badminton, Futsal, Volleyball, Basketball & Korfball.

This facility would be fully utilised as a multi user complex that is necessary for the development & growth of the aforementioned sports.

Such a stadium would also provide an indoor base for the largest participation women's sport in the city.

### ***Consequences of the lack of a facility***

- Progress of the sport will be hindered at all levels
- Grass roots players will continue to have their sport hindered by the weather and health & safety issues.
- Players will not be able to progress beyond the grass roots experience due to lack of facilities.
- There will be no flexibility around days and times when games/competition can be offered.
- Grass roots players will not be able to view or aspire to participating in regional or national events.
- People will be discouraged from participating in the sport because there will be no higher level of game to work towards, That is, elite players are prohibited from playing on surfaces other than wooden by our national organisation.
- Talented players will leave the region to pursue their netball career in areas that can provide facilities.

### ***Other netball facilities***

It is noted that most netball regions in the country boast at least one suitable indoor facility. Netball is played predominately indoors in Invercargill, Dunedin, Palmerston North, Rotorua, Tauranga, Nelson, Porirua, Auckland, Waitakeri to name a few. It is noted that many of these places are considerably smaller than Christchurch, which has one of the largest netball centres in the country and is part of the biggest netball region in the country.

### ***Benefits of a facility***

Having a multi use sports facility would bring Christchurch/Canterbury back to being at the forefront of being able to provide for a number of sports to be played/hosted indoors at all levels: franchise, national, regional, local.

Given the numbers of players, administrators, officials and supporters who attend the sport regularly and at events this would bring in additional revenue to other providers such as hotels/motels/cafes and other retailers within our city.

Christchurch would once more become a leading destination for holding of National tournaments and be seen as a desirable place to play netball at all levels.

### **Structure of Netball in Canterbury**

Netball is a multi-level organisation and all four levels are united in the necessity for a sports facility.

The four levels of netball are:

**Canterbury Netball Incorporated** was created by Netball New Zealand in 1998 as a regional entity to provide support and programs to its 13 member centres in the region – from Waimate in the south to Kaikoura in the north and across to the West Coast.

Canterbury Netball oversees a range of development and representative programmes as well as being the entity responsible for managing national events held in Christchurch.

At present there is no suitable facility in Christchurch that would enable the city and Canterbury Netball to host National or Age Group tournaments.

**Team Canterbury Netball Ltd (Mercury Energy Tactix)** is a 100% owned franchise playing in the highest level of netball competition. Canterbury has had a netball franchise for over 10 years (previously the Canterbury Flames). In mid 2007 the new franchise was formed to enter into the ANZ Championship competition. Canterbury achieves an average spectator level of 5000 pax at home games and has revenue over \$1.2 million. Due to only one venue being available in the city for this type of match it is possible, in future, due to lack of availability that 'home' games may have to be played elsewhere. The Canterbury Franchise is the only one of the five in the country that has only one choice of an indoor venue for the ANZ Championship games.

**Christchurch Netball Centre** continues to provide a community netball competition for the benefit of some 7,000 players, officials, coaches & managers. It is one of the largest centres in New Zealand and considers its main strength to be that all netball is played on the courts in Hagley Park. However, it is now recognised that for the sport to continue to grow in the city and the region access to an indoor facility is vital. Players at all levels need to be able to experience playing conditions regularly available in other cities. The safety factors of playing outdoors (hypothermia, injury risk) also need to be taken into consideration.

**Netball New Zealand** is the national body created in 1924 to oversee the interests of netball from a national perspective. They determine where and when national tournaments are held as well as ensuring national guidelines are upheld with respect to facilities. Currently Christchurch does not have a facility that meets the requirements to hold Age Group, National or Secondary Schools Tournaments.

### **Facility Usage**

We believe that netball in one form or another and delivered by a variety of organisations could quite easily utilise a facility for at least 75% of the available time slots, depending on and in cooperation with other indoor sporting organisations. Netball believes our large membership and their supporters will see the value of such a facility and netball is confident we can mobilise our people to contribute towards the establishment and ongoing costs of this facility.

### **Issues that the Draft Long Term Council Community Plan Fails to Address**

If a facility is not provided:

- There may not be a long term future for Christchurch Netball and other sports that need indoor facilities. That the present netball courts require maintenance expenditure in excess of \$500,000
- What alternatives are available to netball?

- The consequences of not be able to play/host top level netball competition in Christchurch
- Provision of such a facility takes time: there is no provision in the LTCCP to even start this process (plans, consents etc) within the next three years; this will cause unnecessary delays in getting a facility to meet the biggest need (as identified in the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan) of the city's sporting community.

### **Summary of Issues for Netball**

- The inability to provide players the experience of playing indoors in order to achieve higher honours in their sport.
- To be able to provide an alternative to outdoor play in inclement & unsafe conditions.
- Access to an indoor venue for local competition
- Access to an indoor venue to host regional and national competitions, and coaching sessions at all levels.
- Need (as identified in the MSFP) for a sport facility – not an event facility

Christchurch and Canterbury have a proud tradition of being at the forefront of sport in New Zealand, without an indoor facility we are unable to host events that are available to many 2<sup>nd</sup> tier cities throughout the country.

We are at risk of losing up and coming and elite players to areas that can provide an indoor facility thus endangering the sport at grass roots level and our ability to keep Canterbury at the forefront of the top women's sport in the country. This is also true for other sports that require such a facility.

We are keen to work with Christchurch City Council towards provision of a sport facility that has been identified as a priority and that the city can be proud of.