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Submission to: Long-Term Council Community Plan 2009-19	
HEARING	
✓ I wish to discuss the main points of the written submission at the hearings.	
Are you completing this submission:	✓ On behalf of a group or organisation
The organisation represents:	The Akaroa-Wairewa community
From:	Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board Board Chairman:- Stewart Miller
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INTRODUCTION

The Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board (the Board) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-19 (LTCCP)

The Board congratulates the Council on its efforts to exercise fiscal constraint in these economic times, whilst still delivering a wide range of capital projects.

1. Little River Water & Wastewater

The Board notes that the upgrade to the Little River water supply (quantity) and the implementation of a reticulated wastewater system were planned and budgeted for several years ago.

The release of the scion consultation report on water and waste water has served to emphasise that this topography cannot economically support a one size for all water and waste solution. The people of this district have long canvassed for small scale solutions to localised issues. The implementation of extra capacity of water supply must be closely followed by a suitable treatment regime.

The Board is aware that not all previously planned capital projects are included in the Draft LTCCP, but wishes to comment that it believes when these projects do proceed, they should do so together.

2. Christchurch – Little River Rail Trail

The Board requests that funding be provided for the completion of the final stage of the Rail Trail into Little River, following consultation with the community on where the permanent route should be for that stage.

The completion of the Rail Trail is integral to the Little River town centre, with landscaping, stormwater drainage, service centre visitor parking and traffic management issues on hold pending integration with the Rail Trail plan. The traffic management issues include the widely supported reduction of the current speed restriction to 60kph.

3. Birdlings Flat Community Facility

In 2008 the Board helped to fund a report to establish whether there was a need for a community facility at Birdlings Flat, and if so, to provide options for a site and the appropriate type of facility.

The report showed that in the last thirty years Birdlings Flat has grown to become a distinct community, with a relatively high number of people living there who are retired or who are beneficiaries. The nearest facilities to the settlement are at Little River, a twenty four kilometre return journey away. Birdlings Flat needs a community facility to cater for the fast growing residential population which, somewhat against the national trend, is continuing to grow with a number of residential dwellings currently being built. There are also still a large number of undeveloped sections, which would indicate the population will continue to grow for sometime.

The Board requests that funding for this project be included in the 2009-19 LTCCP. Funding would initially be required for land purchase to provide a site for the facility, as the community have indicated they would be prepared to raise funds toward constructing a suitable building. The Board would like to see this project commence within the next three years.

4. Reserves – Capital Funding

The Board supports the funding in the LTCCP for capital projects on reserves in the Akaroa-Wairewa area, but asks that it be permitted to work with staff to identify priorities within the existing funding.

For example, the Board would like to allocate some of the funding to walkway linkages, which under the current draft are unfunded.

5. Seal Extensions (Roding)

The Board notes that new seal extensions are unfunded in the Draft LTCCP. The Board believes it would be more cost efficient to continue to seal sections of some of the higher altitude and steeper gradient roads on Banks Peninsula each year so that shingle wastage could be reduced. When unsealed roads are cleared of snow, a large amount of shingle/metal is graded off in the process. A programme of sealing the higher, more exposed roads would work towards a permanent solution to this metal loss.

6. Strategic Land Purchases

The Board supports the Council making land purchases of strategic property, particularly if Council infrastructure is being protected – e.g. purchase of water supply catchments.

The Board believes the Council should further establish a fund to purchase property or support private efforts to protect our “botanical heritage” in the same way that we protect character housing and historic buildings.

7. Akaroa Health Centre

The Board has previously made submissions to the Council regarding health services on Banks Peninsula, and its belief that Council has a role to play in the provision of rural health services. The Banks Peninsula District Council historically supported primary health care in the community by providing health centre facilities in Akaroa and Diamond Harbour. The Akaroa facility is now critically short of space for the practise to be able to function at its optimum.

The Board has provided funding for a scoping exercise and needs analysis study to be carried out on the provision of Primary Health Care services/facilities in Akaroa. That study contained several conclusions and the following recommendations:

1. That the option to build a new health care facility in the grounds of the Akaroa Hospital be progressed to the next level - that is, to design build a new facility utilising the best practice of recent similar developments, possibly using the architects/construction companies familiar with such projects.
2. That a community trust be formed to drive and support any new development and establish a strong fundraising platform from which to advocate to other potential stakeholders.

The Board wishes to signal to the Council that it may wish to make a submission before the next LTCCP on funding to advance this project, so that at the very least some planning can be carried out within the next 3 years.

8. Akaroa Aquatic & Gymnastic Facility

The Board submits that the Council should be working towards the provision of an aquatic sports and fitness facility for Akaroa. Board members are aware that Akaroa is an isolated community and that residents do not have the same opportunities to use such facilities as do their counterparts in Christchurch. A swimming pool has recently been constructed at the Akaroa Area School; however it has limited availability to the public and is unheated.

The Board does not expect that a city-sized facility be provided, but something which would be suitable for a community the size of Akaroa, which could be used for sport, fitness training and rehabilitation needs.

9. Akaroa Service Centre

The Board believes that the Council should be planning to upgrade the Service Centre in Akaroa. The upcoming "Akaroa Places & Spaces Study" will, the Board submits, highlight the inadequacies of the current facility.

Funding should be included in the 2009-19 LTCCP to provide for the planning and consent process to provide a new service centre.

10. Place de la Poste, Akaroa

The area beside the Akaroa Service Centre, Place de la Poste, needs some redesigning and modification to accommodate a bus shelter and waiting area for passengers using the daily shuttles to and from Christchurch, plus the passengers embarking and returning from the tourism operations which use the area as a base.

Currently passengers wait in the area immediately in front of the Service/Information Centre which is causing a considerable amount of pedestrian congestion and hindering the customers who use the two facilities. In wet and/or cold weather there is nowhere for the passengers to shelter, so they wait in the foyer of the building, causing even further congestion.

The Board wishes to see this project added to the list of capital projects to be completed in the next three years.

CONCLUSION

The Board thanks Council for the opportunity to make a submission to the LTCCP process.

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