

16 April 2009

To: Draft LTCCP
The Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
Christchurch

From: Victoria Andrews
PO Box 102, Akaroa 7452
Phone: 03-304-7769
Email: andrews.davis@clear.net.nz

RE: Submission on the Draft LTCCP 2009-19

I wish to be heard in support of this submission the afternoon of Wednesday 13 May if possible.

1. Retain the existing wording for the policy on determining significance. It is essential that ratepayers be fully informed as to the intentions of elected representatives and staff with regard to long-term plans and how rates are to be spent during annual and LTCCP time frames. This issue is especially critical with regard to the current economic downturn when many individuals and families are living on restricted incomes. There must be a high degree of accountability and transparency on the part of the Council when it acts on behalf of ratepayers.
2. I support the increase of fees and charges to cruise ships visiting Akaroa although I must express concern that these visits can have a detrimental impact on the town especially during peak holiday times and when more than one ship is in the harbour.
3. I support the Canterbury Museum grant, provided there is full public consultation regarding any major redevelopment of the existing historic building. Early consultation can reduce potential controversy during later stages of the proposal.
4. I must question the wisdom of the Council going against the direct wishes of some ratepayers regarding the removal of the Edgeware pool and the proposed sale of the property for residential housing. It would seem prudent to retain the property for the benefit of local residents and to determine its future use working in partnership with affected parties.
5. The Council has not increased funding for heritage protection over the life of the LTCCP yet it claims that the city's cultural heritage is an asset worthy of retention. An Issues and Options paper dating from December 2005 on heritage provisions for the Christchurch City Plan has yet to be acted upon. A variation is required to assist in resolving this long outstanding matter if the Council is indeed serious about preserving the character of the city.

6. A variation to the Banks Peninsula District Plan on helicopter landings has yet to be heard even though members of the community have lobbied for years to have the matter resolved.
7. There is no apparent method of linking the Akaroa Harbour Basin Settlement Study to the Urban Design Strategy even though there will be an overlap in terms of Christchurch residents using the rural Peninsula area as a recreational resource. Tourism is proposed to double within the next ten years in Akaroa and the LTCCP does not reflect the need to provide for such an increase in visitor numbers nor have local residents been consulted if they wish this to happen. No determination has been made as to who will pay for necessary infrastructural improvements and if traffic and parking requirements can handle such an increase especially with regard to Akaroa's Historic Area.
8. I support the work being done by the Strategy and Planning Team with regard to the Akaroa Harbour Basin Settlement Study, provided there is public input during the process, but this should not preclude a comprehensive town plan for Akaroa that was the precursor to this expanded program and study. Provisions should be put in place to protect the harbour basin's significant features that form its landscape, context and setting. It should be noted that New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) has advocated that the Akaroa peninsula be managed to a planning standard of that for World Heritage Sites. I also support the potential variation to the proposed Banks Peninsula District Plan recognising the NZHPT Historic Area registration.
9. I support the newly created position of collection manager for the Akaroa Museum which is a Council facility that is open 364 days a year with one full time position and two part time workers at present. This facility has been a tremendous resource for Akaroa and Banks Peninsula since the museum's establishment in the 1960s. It serves the community and increasing numbers of visitors to the area. The new storage building and additional staff will allow the museum to properly care for objects and eventually add to this important collection. As mentioned earlier, if tourism doubles within the next ten years then consideration must be given to the current building and staffing level so that adequate planning may take place to meet future community and visitor requirements. Consideration of this request would be appreciated.
10. No apparent mention has been made in the LTCCP of the expiration of the MOU in 2010 and how Banks Peninsula services will be brought up to higher standards and what time period this may require.

Submitted by Victoria Andrews