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# CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL Draft LTCCP 2009-19

## - Received via Web

Submissions close on 16 April 2009

**I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Monday 11 May 2009 and Monday 18 May 2009.**

<b>Are you completing this submission:</b>	For yourself
<b>If you are representing, how many people do you represent?</b>	
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<b>Date:</b>	15 April 2009
<b>Your Submission:</b>	<p>Submission to Christchurch City Council LTCCP 2009</p> <p>Two points:</p> <p>1) There are real risks with the proposed changes to the "Policy on Significance".</p> <p>A council is not like a company. It operates with different objectives, clearly spelt out in the early sections of the Local Government Act and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act. A Council is not required to make a profit, nor to pay tax if it does. It is given the freedom to carry out a wide range of functions for social good. A council is given protection, through mechanisms such as qualified privilege. In return for the advantages it is given a council has to have a clear plan and to be predictable in its behaviour. A "Policy on Significance" is one of the mechanisms used to protect parties involved in dealing with a council. It gives a "no surprises" relationship for its staff, its ratepayers, its suppliers and the organisations with which it deals. Weakening the situations under which a matter would be considered "significant" will weaken the council's predictability and thus the trust in which the council is held by parties dealing with it.</p> <p>Other legislation allows a council to behave in non-standard or non-planned ways in emergency situations, and gives councils special protection for matters which have financial or confidentially implications.</p> <p>I request that the Policy on Significance be not amended to allow urgent or confidential matters to be considered not significant.</p>

I believe that the current Christchurch City Council thresholds for "significance" are too weak " they are not managing to catch "cumulative" events which combined together amount to a significant change. The individual purchases of the Henderson properties may not have been especially significant, but the cumulative effect of the purchases definitely marked a significant change in council direction and finance.

I urge the council to include a clause in its Policy on Significance, along the lines of the one in Section 3 of the Resource Management Act.

It might read:

"A precautionary principal will apply. A decision is significant if it would result, cumulatively with other decisions, in a change otherwise defined as significant in the terms of this policy."

## 2) Cycleway across the Waimakariri

For many years the City Council, the Regional Council and Waimakariri District have been "passing the buck" in regards to cycle access across the Waimakariri River. If the Old North Road bridge is to be strengthened, this will give a wonderful opportunity to get a cycleway built, while the other work is being done. There will be considerable savings on false-work and scaffolding, and on traffic disruption by constructing a cycleway at the same time. A cycleway (and incidentally safer pedestrian access) is urgently needed. The City Council has the policy to encourage cycling, and it should take the initiative, and sort out the relationships with the other parties later if required.

I ask the Council to take immediate steps to construct a cycleway across the Waimakariri River.