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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.

Are you completing this submission:

On behalf of a group or organisation

If you are representing, how many people do you represent?

Canterbury A&P Association, 3000 members

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Date:

16 April 2009

Your Submission:

We submit in support of Council's proposed allocation of funding for the Canterbury Park Access in the LTCCP. Proposed funding outlined in the LTCCP is \$488,000 in 2009/10 and \$2,021,000 in 2010/11.

Our advice from Council officers is that this funding allocation will only cover the establishment of the Aidanfield Boulevard entrance to the Park, which once the proposed Southern Motorway is built will provide the main public entrance to the Canterbury Park for the annual Royal New Zealand Show and other major events held at this venue.

The impact from the Southern Motorway on the Royal New Zealand Show both during construction and on completion has the potential to seriously jeopardise our ability to successfully host the Royal New Zealand Show without adequate funding to reconfigure the Park layout for the Show to accommodate the motorway.

Whilst we support the funding that has been allocated in the LTCCP for the Aidanfield Boulevard we draw Council's attention to the fact that the \$2.5m over two years is insufficient to mitigate the extreme adverse effect of the motorway on the Canterbury A&P Association and the Royal New Zealand Show.

The impact of the Southern Motorway will cause significant changes throughout the Canterbury Park and consideration must be given to funding to address the changes to the existing Curletts Road access, a second Curletts Road entry, the internal slip road, parking areas, perimeter fencing, bus access, public entry points/turnstiles, signage, formation of arenas,

formation of new grass parking areas, potential relocation of the carnival area, disabled parking and pedestrian entrances. Re-configuration maps are currently being prepared and the changes will then be costed but the initial indication is that this will in the vicinity of \$3m.

The Canterbury A&P Association hosts the Royal New Zealand Show and has held a Show in Christchurch every year since 1862. The Royal New Zealand Show is now the largest Agricultural and Pastoral Show in New Zealand and the largest single event in the South Island attracting over 120,000 people. NZ Cup and Show Week generates over \$28m in direct economic benefit to Christchurch and of this 62% is as a direct result of the Show.

It has been clearly proven that bad experiences and publicity related to traffic issues and delays getting into the Show will have a serious financial effect on the Show and the A&P for the following three to four years.

The Canterbury A&P Association would not survive another drop in visitor, trade and livestock numbers as experienced after the 1997 traffic issues. Should we not meet our targets we would also place the rights for Christchurch to host the Royal New Zealand Show in jeopardy. The A&P won the rights to host the Royal New Zealand Show in Christchurch based on our track record for growth and our long term projections for the development and sustainability of the Royal New Zealand Show as the premiere agricultural and pastoral show in New Zealand.

Based on the current Show attendance figures should the motorway, either during construction or on completion create a traffic issue that would cause a drop in attendances of public, trade and livestock numbers (based on the drop from 1997) the effect on the A&P and the Show has the potential to be catastrophic. Without the Show there is no A&P and without the A&P there is no Show. Both need to survive to continue the legacy of "bringing the country to town" for future generations of Christchurch and Canterbury families and visitors to the City.

A conservative drop of 15% in attendances would equate to a loss of gate revenue to the Association of \$160,000. It would mean a loss of \$2.48m in direct economic impact to the city and region and a loss of \$4.2m in turnover by trade exhibitors at the Show. The A&P is a member driven organisation, we are a registered charity whose mission is to promote excellence in agribusiness through quality and innovative exhibitions, competitions, education and events and to bring the country to town. The A&P has had to make considerable budget adjustments in the last year in an attempt to protect the A&P and the Show through the Southern Motorway Resource Consent process. The A&P has only just recovered financially from the 1997 to 2000 Shows and do not have the cash reserves to be able to fund the reconfiguration of the Canterbury Park due to the Southern Motorway construction.

The Canterbury A&P Association and the annual Show are part of the social and economic heritage of our City. The threat imposed by inadequate funding to implement the changes to the Canterbury Park to enable the hosting of the Royal New Zealand Show poses a serious threat to these icons of our community and significant loss to the A&P, the rural and agribusiness community and the people of Christchurch