

**CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL
Draft LTCCP 2009-19**

- Received by Email

Name:	Fiona McGregor Email: fionamcgr@gmail.com
CC:	
Sent:	Tue 7/04/2009 7:04 pm
Your Submission:	<p>LTTCP Submission (Long Term Council Community Plan)</p> <p>The Issue for Consideration: Currently, we understand that the storm water and, at times, raw sewerage is permitted to enter both Heathcote and Avon Rivers. It is also understood that the sewerage outfall still empties into the Estuary.</p> <p>We find it an unacceptable, irresponsible and environmentally unethical for the Council to permit these precious resources and waters being contaminated and polluted. The public uses these waters extensively for recreational purposes and fun activities. The contamination and pollution of these waters adversely affect native flora and fauna and the ecosystem. If we allow the optimum health and good conditions of these natural resources to be adversely affected by our irresponsible decisions and action, their environmentally sound state of health will be lost. We have a responsibility to protect these resources as well as our health-- for ourselves, for the environment and our future generations.</p> <p>What the Council Should Do: We urge the City Council to undertake or commission either an independent or collaborative assessment by different agencies of the effects of the continuing dumping of raw sewerage and outfall into the Heathcote, Avon Rivers and the Estuary. We understand that a Health Impact Assessment is one way of ascertaining, in a methodological and structured way, the effects of any decision on the health of populations, including that on the health of the environment.</p> <p>Why A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) : We want a comprehensive assessment that utilises robust and high quality evidence to inform the City Council's elected members on the most appropriate course of action in dealing with raw sewerage and outfall that contaminates the Heathcote and Avon Rivers and the Estuary.</p> <p>We want the Council's decision and subsequent action on these matters to be based on evidence on what is best for the people of Christchurch and of the natural environment's health and wellbeing. In our view, a thorough assessment of the best course of action with the minimal adverse impact on people and the environment is best. A Health Impact Assessment will be able to provide this and will facilitate better decision-making by elected members who were in their positions of power and influence with the prime goal of taking a stand and defending that which is in the best interest of the Christchurch public.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health web pages on HIA indicate that a health impact assessment is a comprehensive process. Given the stages involved in an assessment, we have faith that a health impact assessment can contribute substantially in ensuring that decisions made by elected members in relation to the Long Term Council Community Plan, and specifically the state of the Heathcote & Avon rivers as well as the Estuary, will be aligned to that which protects the overall health interest of Christchurch people and their natural environment first and foremost.</p>

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