



CHRISTCHURCH
ESTUARY
ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

Corporate & Statutory Members

Bexley Wetlands Trust Inc. 7211
Burwood/Pegasus Community Board
Canterbury Rowing Assn Inc.
Canterbury Windsports Assn Inc.
Canterbury Yachting Assn Inc.
Christchurch Yacht Club Inc.
Dept. of Conservation
Environment Canterbury
Ferryhead/Brookhaven
Residents Assn. Inc
Hagley/Ferryhead Community Board
Mt Pleasant Yacht Club Inc.
Mt Pleasant Community Centre &
Ratepayers Inc.
Nth Canty Fish & Game Council
Pleasant Point Yacht Club Inc.
Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society
Southshore Residents Assn Inc.
Sumner Residents Assn. Inc

Submission on the Christchurch City Council Draft Long Term
Council Community Plan (L.T.C.C.P) 2009—2019.

Organization making Submission.

Christchurch Estuary Association inc.

C/o The Secretary,

Derek R. Keenan,

70 Waratah Street,

Christchurch 8061.

Phone 9804593.

Email: fedrkeenan@value.net.nz

The Christchurch Estuary Association and its member bodies represent
some 50,000 people.

Submission on L T C C P 2009—2019.

The summary of the Christchurch Long Term Council Community Plan 2009—2019, delivered to every home in Christchurch, on page 3, under the nine Community Outcomes, no 3) states:

“a city of people who value and protect the natural environment”.

On page 5, under “what we’re doing,” \$23m is proposed for the prevention of overflows across the city.

This appears to equal \$2.3m a year on average and to the Christchurch Estuary Association, does not appear to be sufficient to:

- a) line up with the paragraph on page 3 of the summary (above) and,
- b) Does not give the Estuary Association any comfort of the City Council meeting their obligations under the drafts proposed for clean water in the Avon and Heathcote Rivers and streams, tributaries and drains that flow into those rivers.

While some of the major capital expenditure items are said to help prevent overflows, this is not necessarily a proven fact.

Also the aim of permitting more overflow points, under application, and more often, i.e. 6 monthly as against 2 yearly, at present, is likely to have the end result of more contamination of rivers, streams, tributaries and drains.

The Christchurch Estuary Association, under its constitution, has as its aims:

- 1) Act on behalf of its members as a Guardian and Advocate for the Avon-Heathcote Estuary;
- 2) Promote protection and enhancement of the Estuary and the landscapes and streams and channels that drain into it so that people and natural biota can enjoy its full benefits in perpetuity;
- 3) Monitor the impact of human activity on the Estuary and its environment and seek to eliminate or minimize any adverse impact.

There does not appear to be any funding set aside in the 10 year plan for “filtering” contaminants from storm water outfalls anywhere in the city or river banks, i.e. filter boxes, settling tanks, grass swales etc.

There does not appear to be any funding set aside in the 10 year plan for the removal “silt” build-up in the rivers, streams tributaries and drains in the city. This silt build-up is likely to exacerbate the risk of flooding along those waterway areas and , indeed, other low lying areas.

At some stage, the Estuary is the receiving point of excess silting and some expenditure will be needed to keep the waterways and Estuary beds clear of this silt build-up.

If the Estuary and the Avon and Heathcote Rivers and the contributing waterways are allowed to keep “silting up”, they will cease to be of any use as a means of draining storm waters to sea.

The cause of the silting needs to be investigated and subsequently, and positively, controlled.

In earlier days, silting was removed from the rivers and the estuary by “nature’s storm flushes”, which, now , seemingly, because of retention basins in the head waters of the Avon and Heathcote rivers , does not occur.

The Christchurch Estuary Association wishes to be heard in support of its submission.

Yours faithfully

D.R.Keenan

12 th April. 2009.