

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?	26 employees + trustees
Name:	Ian McChesney
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Date:	16 April 2009
Your Submission:	<p>Re: Statement of proposal for the establishment of a charitable trust to implement the Christchurch City Council's Sustainable Energy Strategy:</p> <p>In our submission to the draft CCC Energy Strategy in 2007, Community Energy Action (CEA) did not support the creation of the proposed Energy Agency. The reasons we were not in favour were (a) it seemed to us the CCC was wanting to establish centralised control over many activities that were better suited to decentralised leadership and partnerships, and (b) we regarded the Agency as being non-representative of parties that should have been involved.</p> <p>The final <i>Sustainable Energy Strategy for Christchurch 2008-2018</i> (SES) contains little change from the original proposal. The lead agency for every one of the 28 initiatives in the Strategy continues to be either the CCC or the Energy Agency. While some concession did seem to be offered in that organisations such as CEA might be represented on the Agency, the current Statement of Proposal to establish a Christchurch Agency for Energy (the "Agency") gives no indication of this.</p> <p>Overall, the Statement of Proposal contains several elements that we find highly undesirable:</p> <p>a. the "founding partners" seem to be a mix of large central government, local government and energy sector players rather than representing a broader cross section. There does not seem to be a place for NGO/community representation, such as might be provided by CEA, for example.</p> <p>b. representation by "founding partners" appears to be on the basis of what they can contribute financially to the budget of the Agency, an entirely</p>

inappropriate basis for representation in our view.

c. the CCC's intention to control 50% or more of the votes at any meeting of the trust's board. This is an entirely inappropriate condition to impose, and surely undermines the whole rationale for having a multi-party Agency?

d. the primary purpose of the Agency is to implement the SES action plan, but this pre-supposes that the SES action plan is appropriately specified. In a number of areas we believe this is not the case.

Since the CCC wishes to proceed with the Agency concept we would ask that the following changes be made:

1. The basis of representation is a combination of (a) good governance credentials and (b) representation by strategically important interests. We submit that as a player of long standing in Christchurch (15+ years) and having taken leadership in the issue of cold homes, fuel poverty, energy advice etc (both locally and nationally), CEA should be represented on the Agency.

2. There should be an equal say for all parties around the table. We are confident that the CCC's interests (and indeed that of the citizens of Christchurch in whose interests all trustees should be acting) can be protected in whatever terms are included in the new trust's deed.

3. The Agency should have the ability to review elements of the SES, and make recommendations back to the CCC to allow for changes. We believe this will greatly improve the effectiveness of the SES, and will encourage buy-in from the Trustees and the organisations they represent.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit.