

2008/09 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 21 April 2008

I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this submission be considered.

Are you completing this submission: On behalf of a group or organisation

If you are representing, how many people do you represent? 45

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Date: 10 April 2008

Your Submission:

I think a flat water sports facility should be listed as a high priority in the current plan. The water quality is poor at Kerrs Reach. Some effort should be made to improve the quality of the water. I think the health and safety of our athletes are being compromised with what is available at present.

1. Consider what - Kerrs Reach is grossly overcrowded, not only with rowing boats but also with diverse other craft, such as Dragonboats, outriggers, surf boats & kayaks which all have different manouverability. The number of crashes and close calls is alarming. It is very dangerous particularly when users do not follow the rules of the river as there is no room to take evasive action. This situation is aggravated at low tide when there is even less room. An alternative consideration is the limit of room to expand to cater for new schools that have expressed a desire to row. There is no room to accommodate them.

1a. Specific Action - Put an alternative flat water facility on the Plan as a very high priority. The Council should continue to investigate a new facility at Halswell or revisit the lake Isac proposal.

1a. Why? - This will reduce congestion on Kerrs reach, will open up the opportunity for other people to become involved in rowing, not least other schools who would find it very difficult if rowing is limited to Kerrs Reach. It seems to be a win win situation if such a facility also has benefits for drainage in the area.

1b. Specific Action - The Council could investigate the introduction of gates or a weir on the Avon river between the Pages road bridge and the estuary, that would keep the level of water in the river at a more useable level during the day.

1b. Why? - The level of water in the river, basically every second week due to the tide, is low which reduces space on the river and consequently increases the risk of having an accident significantly.

2. Consider what - The water quality at Kerrs Reach is very poor, at best, and is highly suspect, at worst. The pollution frequently exceeds World Health recreational standards.

2a. Specific Action - There should be an effort to reduce the number of birds in the area.

2b. Some of our girls have had infections from stepping in the river which required antibiotics. The pontoons have improved the situation as rowers do not have to enter the water as they did before. Not only that but the birds seem to like the pontoons as much as the rowers and the mess they create every night reduces the effectiveness of the pontoons.

2c. Specific Action - The Council could look at purchasing another weed

cutter to better manage the weed in the river. While the guys presently working there do a great job, they simply can not keep up.
2d. Why? - There have been several occasions when people have fallen out of boats amongst the weed and they have struggled to get to shore, particularly if they have to pull their boat with them. Sometimes it is the weed that causes the rowers to fall out by catching the oars in the water.

Yours sincerely

Rex Farrelly
Rowing Manager