

Christchurch City Council
Civic Offices
53 Hereford Street
Christchurch

Submission on: **The Draft Annual Plan 2014/15**

Response by: **Avon-Ōtākaro Network**

9 Stable Way
Belfast
Christchurch

The Avon-Ōtākaro Network [AvON], is a network of individuals and organisations promoting the future use of the Avon/Ōtākaro River and the surrounding red zone lands as an ecological and recreational reserve for the community.. We wish to establish a community-driven, science-informed living memorial to rejuvenate and nurture the long-term environmental, economic, community and spiritual wellbeing of the eastern suburbs and greater Christchurch. We aim to create a place of hope and inspiration for the people of Christchurch by restoring health and vitality to our river and its lands.

AvON represents a network of more than 50 organisations, 200 registered individual members, almost 2,000 facebook followers and more than 18,500 signatories to a petition for the establishment of an ecological and recreational park on the Avon/Ōtākaro Corridor.

The Draft Annual Plan

The Avon-Ōtākaro Network wishes to congratulate the Christchurch City Council on the Draft Annual Plan 2014/15 and in particular the following:

“Recovery is about looking forward. The Draft Annual Plan proposes to use \$2.5 million from the Capital Endowment Fund for legacy projects to promote sustainability, resilience and participatory democracy”.

Submission Outline

The community has called for acknowledgement of and the allocation of additional budget to support the following:

1. Avon-Ōtākaro Network requests that CCC acknowledges the potential future use of the Christchurch residential red zone lands as an ecological reserve and recreational river park to add to the diversity of parks and open spaces Christchurch has to offer - such that no projects or works funded within the Annual Plan compromise this.
2. Avon-Ōtākaro Network requests the construction of wetlands within the residential red zone of the Avon/Ōtākaro River catchment – the wetlands to act as filters, intercepting stormwater before it enters the Avon River. We request that CCC makes provision for this by increasing the budget allocated for enhancement work in the infrastructure rebuild, particularly as it pertains to preventing the need for stormwater outflows and sewage overflows during high rainfall events into the lower Avon.
3. Avon-Ōtākaro Network requests the allocation of budget to progress the creation of cycleways and walkways along the Avon River corridor and their local lateral connections, reinstatement of key footbridges across the river
4. Avon-Ōtākaro Network requests that small budgets are allocated to encourage community environmental development of CCC reserve land such as, and including, the reserve land on either side of Anzac Drive, between Travis Road and New Brighton Road.

Submission - Detail

Issues/Topics	Comments
<p>Christchurch Recovery and Rebuild Issues and Challenges</p>	<p>Avon- Ōtākaro Network (AvON) is an umbrella network of many different interests that share a common and popular vision to turn the Avon/Ōtākaro red zone lands into an ecological reserve and recreational river park when the home owners have to leave. The AvON vision encompasses a number of areas of recovery and redevelopment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Health and Environment • River Culture • River Recreation • River Sustenance • River Communities • River Economies. <p>The submission relates these components to the Annual Plan 2014/15.</p> <p>AvON sees the Avon/Ōtākaro Corridor park concept as consistent with many of the rebuild issues and challenges identified by the Council including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration wastewater networks, stormwater systems, and flood protection works • Investment in walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure • Resourcing and supporting communities as they recover and develop • Repairing waterways and restoring ecosystems • Waterway basins detention and treatment programmes • Ensuring good ongoing public engagement, participation and deliberation. <p>AvON endorses the work in the CBD on the Avon River Precinct and sees the Avon/Ōtākaro River Park as a logical extension to connect the CBD to the eastern suburbs and the coast.</p>
<p>Stormwater drainage activities Water quality in rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands is improved</p>	<p>Improvement in stormwater quality in existing urban areas can be achieved through retrofitting low impact urban design measures, such as swales, detention basins, rain gardens and constructed wetlands. The availability of land in existing urban areas has been a major constraint in the past on introducing wetland treatment of stormwater prior to discharge to the Avon/Ōtākaro River. There is a unique opportunity with the red-zoned land to put in place wetlands for stormwater discharge.</p> <p>AvON recommends the inclusion in the draft annual plan of budget for wetland stormwater treatment systems being incorporated in the Avon/Ōtākaro Corridor in red-zoned land.</p>
<p>Wastewater treatment and disposal Negative effects of sewage overflows during wet weather.</p>	<p>Christchurch has a high frequency of raw sewage overflows into the Avon/Ōtākaro River. The introduction of sewage overflow ponds at overflow points can significantly reduce the volume of sewage entering the river. Liquid from the ponds can be tankered for treatment.</p>

	<p>AvON recommends the inclusion in the Annual year plan of sewage overflow ponds at overflow points using red-zoned land in the Avon/ŌtākaroCorridor.</p>
<p>Active travel Providing cycle networks and walking networks</p>	<p>AvON endorses the active travel activities indicated in the draft annual plan.</p> <p>AvON recommends the introduction of cycle networks incorporating a cycle trail along the Avon/ŌtākaroCorridor but also including lateral connections to local amenities, schools and village hubs.</p> <p>AvON also recommends the introduction of a walking network incorporating a walking trail along the Avon/ŌtākaroCorridor.</p>
<p>Parks and Open Spaces Garden and heritage parks; Regional parks.</p>	<p>AvON endorses the parks and open spaces activities in the three year plan.</p> <p>AvON recommends that the Avon/ŌtākaroCorridor incorporate garden and heritage parks including community gardens, cultural heritage parks and earthquake memorials to commemorate lost communities f the red zone.</p> <p>AvON also recommends the establishment of a broad, continuous and self-sustaining biodiversity corridor along the Avon/ŌtākaroCorridor which is integrated into biosanctuary and provides sustainable links to other biodiversity corridors within Christchurch.</p> <p>AvON recommends inclusion of budgets to restore and develop existing riverside reserves along the lower Avon and estuary with particular reference to Anzac Drive Reserve and the South Brighton Reserves.</p>
<p>Democracy and Governance Decisions take account of community views</p>	<p>AvON endorses the concept of the Council decisions taking account of community views.</p> <p>There is strong community support for the establishment of the Avon-ŌtākaroCorridor as an ecological and recreational river park on red-zoned land.</p> <p>AvON recommends the establishment of an interim management group for the Avon/ŌtākaroCorridor to facilitate the development and implementation a community-driven, science-informed plan for the Avon/ŌtākaroCorridor and sufficient budget to support this.</p>
<p>Community support People actively involved in their communities</p>	<p>AvON endorses the concept of people being actively involved in their communities.</p> <p>The development of the Avon/ŌtākaroCorridor is a suitable project as a community development project that warrants Council support to facilitate “the growth of strong, active, resourceful and resilient communities”.</p>
<p>City Planning and Development</p>	<p>AvON endorses the Council contributing to community outcomes by fully taking the “the opportunities given by the earthquakes to rethink the shape of the city.”</p> <p>AvON sees the establishment of an ecological reserve and recreational river park on the Avon/ŌtākaroCorridor red-zoned land as an example of an opportunity to create a place of hope and inspiration for the people of Christchurch by restoring health and vitality to our river and its lands.</p>

We wish to discuss the main points in our written submission at the Hearings to be held on 14, 15, 16 and 19th May 2014.

We are completing the submission behalf of a group representing 50 organisations and over 200 individual members.

Contact name	Evan Smith Avon/ŌtākaroNetwork 9 Stable Way Belfast Christchurch
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Mark Gibson Co-Chair - Avon/ŌtākaroNetwork
Evan Smith Co-Chair - Avon/ŌtākaroNetwork

Tuesday, 22 April 2014