



Feedback to CCC on the Long Term Plan

On behalf of the Strategic Steering Group of Avon-Ōtākaro Network

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Acknowledgement

We would like to commend and thank Christchurch City Council for seeking initial feedback from the public on the Long Term Plan (LTP). Central to our *kaupapa* is the principle of optimal community participation in decision making processes with regard to the recovery of Christchurch. Your “help us make smart choices” campaign aligns well with this.

Provision for Avon River Residential Red Zone (RRZ) Projects

While central government has yet to make decisions regarding the long-term future use of RRZ lands, such decisions are likely within the timeframe of the LTP. We ask that this be given consideration when allocating funds to provide adequate contingency for:

- Realising maximum opportunities to construct sustainable wetlands within the RRZ to intercept stormwater pipes that would otherwise discharge directly into the Ōtākaro / Avon River and its tributaries and the Ihutai / Estuary, for the purposes of improving water quality in the waterways, enhancing biodiversity and restoring *mahinga kai*.
- Implementing improvements and changes to infrastructure such as stop banks, underground pipes, utility assets, etc, that enable and protect future uses of RRZ lands whatever they may be, whilst providing maximum cost-effective protection to adjacent residential communities from natural hazards particularly inundation (flooding and sea level rise) and seismic risk.
- Capital and operational expenditure to implement and operate any assets including green space in RRZ lands that may transfer into or remain in CCC ownership and/or management.

Provision for Betterment of the Wastewater System

While we appreciate that insurance for infrastructure damage is on the basis of like-for-like and that a wastewater system that is free from overflow discharges to natural waterways is difficult and expensive to achieve, we would urge CCC to prioritise improvements to the wastewater system to achieve zero acceptance of sewage discharges into the waterways as soon as possible within the next decade. Adequate provision for this, needs to be made within the LTP.

Provision for Maintenance of the Ōtākaro / Avon River and its tributaries and the Ihutai / Estuary

Since the earthquakes and the red zoning of much of the land adjacent to the lower Ōtākaro / Avon River little expenditure has been undertaken to maintain the waterways, river banks and riparian margins.

As a result the amenity value of the waterway has been extremely degraded with significant consequential ongoing negative impact on the wellbeing of adjoining communities. The lack of maintenance is also having significant impacts on the ecology of the river system with uncontrolled invasion of pest species such as yellow flag iris and accumulation of sediments from liquefaction and recovery work.

We request that adequate provision is made within the LTP for the maintenance of these water ways to optimise their amenity, ecological and cultural values both in the interim and once decisions regarding the future use of the RRZ lands are made.

Provision for an Integrated Approach to Development and Future Uses of CCC Lands adjacent to RRZ Lands

CCC has approved Development and Management Plans for the South New Brighton Reserves and Bexley Reserve, while plans are currently being explored for Porritt Park and the old QE2 site. However the future of adjacent RRZ lands currently in Crown ownership has yet to be decided.

We ask that decisions, whether involving funding allocations or not, regarding these CCC green spaces, be made in the context of the greater region so that they might be fully integrated and do not compromise possible future uses of the RRZ lands. Such considerations may enable economies of scale and cost-sharing, and thus cost savings.

This may require flexibility with CCC practice eg seeking EOI for use of a site may not be the best initial step to ensure integration with the surrounding area.

It could also involve a different approach that includes local communities in the planning and management of the green space and reserves.

Provision for Funding Events that Showcase the Recovery and Amenities of the East

The eastern suburbs were among the most impacted suburbs from the earthquakes. We request that special consideration be given to funding at least one significant metropolitan event per year that celebrates the recovery and amenities of the east of Christchurch as a whole, such as an annual festival.

Smart Choices

We are very aware that many of the above provisions will require a nett spend – and with the level of uncertainty regarding future use of the RRZ, the level of expenditure for some provisions is currently unquantifiable.

From our point of view the provisions we have listed are a higher priority for funding than the covered stadium and the convention centre. We therefore see potential to make these provisions by delaying expenditure on these central city anchor projects.

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