



## **Submission on**

# **Draft Annual Plan Christchurch Ōtautahi 2012-2013**

I wish to discuss the main points in my submission at the hearings to be held on 31 May and 5, 6 and 8 June 2012

I am completing this submission on behalf of a group or organisation.

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## **Avon-Otakaro Network**

- 1.1 Avon-Ōtakaro Network (AvON) is a network of individuals and organisations campaigning to turn the Avon River red zone lands into an ecological and recreational river park when the home owners have to leave.
- 1.2 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 of those living throughout greater Christchurch. Our aim is to turn a tragedy into an opportunity, a polluted drain into a vibrant river system, and exhaustion and despair into hope and inspiration.
- 1.3 We currently have over 200 registered individual members and more than 50 organisations represented at our membership forums. Moreover our Facebook page has almost 2,000 followers and our recent petition to parliament attracted over 18,500 signatures.
- 1.4 The full AvON membership meets every quarter in a forum. Our strategic steering group provides overall leadership, includes people from all the main interest groups and is the 'guardian' of the AvON vision. We also have reference groups of members who share a common interest and help set up or carry out projects within their particular realm of interest.
- 1.5 The AvON vision encompasses a number of areas of recovery and redevelopment:

- River Health and Environment (water quality improvement, flood protection, biodiversity enhancement)
  - River Culture (history of the river, Maori culture, heritage, arts)
  - River Recreation: “place of the game” (community and organised recreation and sport)
  - River Sustenance - food for body, mind and spirit (community gardens, mahinga kai, places of learning, places of tranquillity)
  - River Communities (community wellbeing and (re)development, interconnected communities, earthquake memorials)
  - River Economies – (tourism potential, training & employment, small business, urban renewal, property values)
- 1.5 The AvON vision has provided a beacon of hope and comfort through the heartache, frustration and angst of the here and now challenges of earthquake recovery. It has captured the imagination of people because it offers respite from the present and hope for the future. It promotes a wonderful legacy for generations to come and the potential to build prosperity for the region. Such visions are exceedingly important to restore confidence in the future of the city and bolster the strength and resilience within communities to work through the current phase of the recovery.

### **Topic: An Integrated Recovery Plan for the East based upon the Redevelopment of the Lower Avon Corridor**

- 2.1 There is a need to develop an **overarching recovery plan for the eastern suburbs** that integrates local plans into a whole rather than taking a piecemeal approach eg the plan for New Brighton should not be developed in isolation, but in the context of this overall plan. This is particularly important because of the very significant degree to which these parts of the city have been impacted by the earthquakes and because of the diversity of recovery agencies with different responsibilities that need to be coordinated. This plan for the east needs to include all the focal areas of recovery and redevelopment itemised above. This plan in turn needs to dovetail into recovery plans and strategies for the city as a whole.
- 2.2 The AvON vision can provide a **fundamental connected physical and thematic framework** for the development of such an overarching recovery plan for the eastern communities. The river corridor provides the lifeline and the back bone upon which the recovery of the east can be built.
- 2.3 There is a need to consider the infrastructure rebuild, and the repair and rebuild of parks and sports facilities in the context of the AvON vision for a river park from city to sea, such that **no action or proposed action precludes** implementation of the vision.
- 2.4 There needs to be a **willingness** of recovery agencies, planners, etc **to fully engage, liaise and consult** with AvON and communities of interest with respect to any project, plan or programme that may impact the implementation of the AvON vision.
- 2.5 There needs to be support - both lobbying and financial - to save **assets of value** (eg heritage, cultural, community value) where they provide key foci for the recovery and the implementation of the AvON vision.

### **Topic: A Recreational Precinct in the East**

- 3.1 We acknowledge the need to re-assess provision for sport and recreation in the city as a whole based on demographic trends and the **need to re-configure** that provision to optimise access, integration and co-location of facilities.
- 3.2 We acknowledge the **net loss** of sport and recreational facilities in the lower Avon corridor ie QEII athletics stadium, QEII pool complex (both family recreational and competition pools), QEII public fitness & gym complex, Porritt Park hockey pitches, Kerrs Reach flat water facilities and storage sheds, and river corridor pathways.

- 3.3 We acknowledge the **strong community desire** for a family recreational pool complex with hydroslides, learner pool and fitness centre in the east, within the vicinity of the proposed Avon-Otakaro Park, to compensate for the loss of QEII pools – preferably complemented by or including heated saltwater pools.
- 3.4 We acknowledge the need for a flat water sports and recreation hub on the lower Avon coupled with biking facilities and bike trails (“**Avon Hub**”)
- 3.5 We support the establishment of a ‘**recreational precinct**’ in the east comprising the lower Avon corridor, the potential amenities detailed in points 3.3 & 3.4 above, Cowle Stadium, Cuthberts Green, the estuary and the beaches NB: the primary focus here is on family recreation on and around water, rather than on competitive sports (although the latter are very much a part of the proposed Avon Hub).
- 3.6 Insofar as it meets points 3.3 and 3.5 we support the council’s **preferred local option for major community facilities**: “Recreation and sport facility at QEII or other site in east similar to Jellie Park”