

North Canterbury Branch,  
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society  
Po Box 2389  
Christchurch  
3rd May 2006

Dear Sir/ Madam

We wish to talk to the main points in our written submission at the hearings to be held between Thursday May 25th and Wednesday June 7th 2006.

**Submission to Christchurch Long Term Community Plan**

**Draft Summary Comment**

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Water Supply

**Issue**

The plan says nothing about prevention of activities that could damage the water quality in the aquifers and the aquifer catchment area eg farming , horticulture and housing subdivision and development whose damaging effects on water quality can take decades to become manifest .

**Decisions sought**

- CCC looks very carefully at these activities
- The "option" of water conservation is not credible without water metering, reuse, and rainwater collection systems for all large water consumers and households because the irrigation demand for water in Canterbury is planned to double in the medium term.
- CCC not give funding or guarantee of funding in future for the CPW trust or CP Water Limited .

## Parks, Open Spaces and Waterways

### Issue

Public right of ways are not clearly marked.

### Decisions sought

There should be linkage of existing reserves and provision of access to rivers and coast. Current public access should be available in a published document especially in the light of Banks Peninsula amalgamation. There are often no signs although local people frequently do have the knowledge .

Purchase of Moepuku Point in the upper inner Lyttelton Harbour seems desirable for many reasons. It is a link with Quail island , Orton Bradley Park and the summit paper road to the Hill Top tavern overlooking the Akaroa Harbour.

### Issue

The Biodiversity Strategy seems to have been put in the too hard basket. Biodiversity or indigenous species reflect our origins and are a vital part of our lives in Christchurch.

The commitment of \$37 million for strategic land purchases is strongly supported. Rising land prices and the opportunities for major strategic additions to parks and reserves on Banks Peninsula mean this figure should be increased.

### Decisions sought

A recommitment of the council to the Strategy.

- Greater representation of indigenous flora in the city and environs, especially along main roads.
- Protection of the ecosystems in such places as Kaitorete Spit
- Revisiting of the Christchurch perimeter walkway proposal
- Purchasing land such as Moepuku Point which is a filter securing Quail island as a haven for vulnerable and threatened species.
- Greater incentives to encourage private land owners to protect biodiversity such as fencing ,and pest management assistance.
- Work with Ecan to reintroduce the subsidy on the Quail island ferry to allow greater numbers to see and value eco restoration projects.

### Issue

Beaches being treated badly. The Banks Peninsula coast provides important habitat for white flippered penguin and some yellow eyed penguin and they are very vulnerable to dogs. The smaller Banks Peninsula bays are even more sensitive to the impact of vehicles and conflicts between wildlife , walkers and other users and vehicles, than the Pegasus Bay coast

### Decision Sought .

Now that Banks Peninsula is part of Christchurch , beaches throughout the larger council area need to be classified and protected from vehicles and dogs.

There needs to be standardisation throughout the region with a uniform enforcement of bylaws with vehicles and dogs excluded from more beaches, as they are from parts of Brighton beach

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### City Development

### Issue

Energy Conservation in housing

### Decisions sought

Houses should be encouraged to invest in solar water heating panels , through council schemes such as have been available with approved log burners. Similarly there should be incentives available through council that will enable households to invest in optimum insulation.

### Comment on full LTCP Document

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### Parks and Waterways

### Issue

The LTCP does not recognise adequately the amalgamation of CCC with Banks Peninsula District and the significant biodiversity protection opportunities this provides, given the high level of endemism on the Peninsula, its outstanding natural landscapes and vigorous shrubland regeneration. Large numbers of Christchurch City residents use the Peninsula for mountainbiking, walking, scenery appreciation, water sports and other

recreation. The amalgamation should be recognised as a major driver for change for parks and waterways, land and recreation management.

Funding should be provided for the Council to review its new landholdings (c 3000 ha on the Peninsula) and develop a parks and reserves and biodiversity protection strategy for the Peninsula. A recreation strategy for the Peninsula should complement this. The strategy should be prepared in consultation with the Department of Conservation, community board, and interested community organizations and other stakeholders. It should review the existing management regime for Peninsula parks and reserves, identify the opportunities to link these (and existing public conservation land and any protected areas of private land) to provide wildlife and landscape corridors, and improve recreational routes (eg Summit Road walkways) through purchase of new lands, and review the adequacy of existing weed and pest control to determine where additional effort is needed.

Increased funding for strategic land purchases for parks and reserves and biodiversity work on the Peninsula are a higher priority in terms of environmental benefits than the \$10.2 million proposed for facility development in the Botanic Gardens.

#### Decision sought

Provide funding and a policy commitment to prepare and implement biodiversity protection and recreation strategies for Banks Peninsula by (if necessary) redirecting funding proposed for facility development in the Botanic Gardens.

Recognise that Banks Peninsula is a major natural asset for the city and that increased funding and staff and community effort is needed to protect its significant indigenous biodiversity, landscape and recreation values.

Page 113-119 Economic Development and Page 235 Council Controlled Organisations

#### Central Plains Water Trust

Forest and Bird strongly opposes any Council funding being directed now or in future to the Central Plains Water Trust, Central Plains Water Ltd or any related organization by the Christchurch City Council, CDC, CEDF, CCHL or any other CCC entity.

The "Think Big" CPW irrigation scheme is likely to have devastating impacts on the internationally important Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers in terms of their flow regimes, natural character, ecological and recreational values. The land use intensification and dairying the scheme will cause is a major threat to water quality in lowland streams and groundwater.

CPW has failed to engage in genuine consultation with the community. It does not represent community views. It has failed to investigate adequately the long term and serious environmental effects of the proposal. Its AEE for the project has major gaps,

such as the scheme's impacts on braided river birds, the whitebait fishery and access to the rivers.

CPW has already gained several million dollars in ratepayer funding (spent largely on consultants such as URS) through its over optimistic projections of the scheme's economic benefits. Any further funding would simply encourage an unsustainable venture which will cause serious water pollution, compromise two of New Zealand's outstanding rivers, and promote land uses such as dairying which are not sustainable in Canterbury's dryland climate.

Yours faithfully

Maria Stoker- Farrell

Secretary