

Submission by the Sustainable Business Network, Southern Region(SBN)

Christchurch City Council Our Community Plan 2006 – 2016

Representation:

Brian Walsh on behalf of Sustainable Business Network, Southern region, is making this submission. SBN has some 90 member/ organisations in this region.

Address for Service:

Sustainable Business Network (Southern Region)
C/- 32 Greenpark St
Hoon Hay
CHCH 8002

Contact persons:

Brian Walsh & Danny Gresham
Ph: (Bus/AH) 03 981 9785
E: brian @ sustainable.org.nz

Being Heard

- We wish to be heard in support of all our submissions
- Our preferred location to be heard is Christchurch

Standard Clauses

In relation to each submission any specific relief we seek is followed by the following clauses:

...OR SUCH OTHER CHANGES THAT WOULD ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR SUBMISSION PLUS ANY CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES NECESSARY TO GIVE EFFECT TO OUR SUBMISSION

The purpose of these clauses is to authorise the Council to make changes to achieve our submission in the event of the council agreeing with our submission but being unable to grant the specific relief. It also allows necessary consequential changes that granting the relief will require to give full effect to our submission.

Main issues of the Sustainable Business Network covered in these submissions are:

- SBN promotes triple bottom line sustainable management & development as an essential for community vitality and resilience.
- Councils have a key role in promoting the quadruple bottom line sustainability of the community
 - Environmental sustainability should be the basis of community sustainability as it is the life supporting aspect of community wellbeing
- Working with the business sector is necessary to achieve a balanced community wellbeing & sustainability
 - Councils working in partnership with communities (rather than governing for communities) are an important aspect of community wellbeing & part of the 'Cultural Wellbeing' bottom line. (Other bottom lines under Local Govt Act 2002: Environmental, Social, Cultural & Economic)

- SBN has experienced some difficulty in promoting sustainability, in the business sector, with the Council following Councils reorganisation
- SBN would like to be recognised as a key stakeholder, special interest group or partner organisation under the Councils plans & policies
- SBN has networks & programmes to help achieve sustainable & community outcomes for example SBN's Get Sustainable Challenge for sustainable development in business – [click her](#) to view.

SBN Issue/Sub Issue:

Councils have a key role in promoting the quadruple bottom line sustainability of the community/ Environmental sustainability should be the basis of community sustainability as it is the life supporting aspect of community wellbeing

Part of the Plan Affected (Part/Pg/Topic):

Community Outcomes/44/A city of people who protect the natural environment – we know when we are succeeding when

Our Submission is:

In order to achieve the objective the Council need to promote (i.e. continually move toward) a higher standard than to “minimise damage to the environment”. Suggest the RMA approach should be the standard so Council should seeks to avoid, remedy or mitigate damage to the environment”

The relief we seek is:

ALTER the words “minimise damage to the environment” in *Community Outcomes/44/A city of people who protect the natural environment – we know when we are succeeding when*, to read:

“We manage our city toward primarily avoiding damage to the environment” OR SUCH OTHER CHANGES THAT WOULD ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR SUBMISSION PLUS ANY CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES NECESSARY TO GIVE EFFECT TO OUR SUBMISSION.

Part of the Plan Affected (Part/Pg/Topic):

Community Outcomes/45/A Prosperous City – Community Outcome – sustainable wealth creation

Our Submission is:

The term *sustainable wealth creation* fails to address Councils integrated quadruple bottom line obligations. The term could be interpreted to mean only economic sustainability. SBN suggests using the words *Sustainable Development* to clarify the outcome.

The term Sustainable Development has been explored by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE) in the document *Creating our future: Sustainable development for New Zealand*. In this document the PCE identified the that Sustainable Development recognizes:

- the finite reserves of non-renewable resources
- the limits of natural life-supporting systems (ecosystems)
- the interactions between environmental, social, and economic outcomes
- the well-being of both current and future generations

We suggest that this better represents Council quadruple bottom line obligations and should therefore be used in the document.

The relief we seek is:

ALTER the term *sustainable wealth creation* in *Community Outcomes/45/A Prosperous City – Community Outcome* to read:

We value sustainable wealth creation, obtained through sustainable development, ...

AND Consequently ALTER the last sentence of 'we know when we are succeeding' to read:

Our economic development prioritises future well being while recognising:

- *the finite reserves of non-renewable resources*
- *the limits of natural life-supporting systems (ecosystems)*
- *the interactions between environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes*

OR SUCH OTHER CHANGES THAT WOULD ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR SUBMISSION PLUS ANY CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES NECESSARY TO GIVE EFFECT TO OUR SUBMISSION.

SBN Issue:

Working with the business sector is necessary to achieve a balanced community wellbeing & sustainability/ SBN would like to be recognised as a key stakeholder, special interest group or partner organisation under the Councils plans & policies

Part of the Plan Affected (Part/Pg/Topic):

Strategic Directions/53/Who we need to work with

Our Submission is:

The key partnerships listed to help achieve environmental goals do not include business sector groups.

The relief we seek is:

ADD after last bullet point the words:

Working with business sector groups and particularly sustainable business groups, such as the Sustainable Business Network, to promote sustainable development and business practices.

OR SUCH OTHER CHANGES THAT WOULD ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR SUBMISSION PLUS ANY CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES NECESSARY TO GIVE EFFECT TO OUR SUBMISSION.

Part of the Plan Affected (Part/Pg/Topic):

Strategic Directions – Healthy Environment/52/Goals and Objectives

AND OR

Strategic Directions – Prosperous Economy/56/Goals and Objectives – item 6

Our Submission is:

As the business sector is such a significant element of the community achieving a healthy environment and prosperous economy that meets the Council quadruple bottom lines means moving business toward sustainable development. Toward this end specific business sustainable development goals and objectives need to be included in this plan and other Council & affiliates plans and policies.

The relief we seek is:

ADD another part on page 52 AND OR

ADD to or after item 6 on page 56 as follows

Contribute actively toward Sustainable Development by:

- ***Encouraging Business to take part in sustainable development organisations such as Sustainable Business Network, The Natural Step etc***
- ***Helping business groups work together toward sustainable development outcomes.***
- ***Funding and supporting sustainable development organisations including the Sustainable Business Network, and their initiatives and outreach activities that help achieve the city's community outcomes.***

- **Council maintaining its membership of key sustainable development organisations, including the Sustainable Business Network**
- **Working with other Councils in the Canterbury Region to help achieve sustainable development.**

OR SUCH OTHER CHANGES THAT WOULD ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR SUBMISSION PLUS ANY CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES NECESSARY TO GIVE EFFECT TO OUR SUBMISSION.

Part of the Plan Affected (Part/Pg/Topic):

Strategic Directions/57/Who we need to work with

Our Submission is:

We support the Councils statement that it will work with business individuals and representative organisations and further SBN are willing to be an active partner in the goals

The relief we seek is:

Retain the section and AMEND the second sentence, second paragraph to read "Sustainable business networks, **including the Sustainable Business Network**, will also be important partners....

OR SUCH OTHER CHANGES THAT WOULD ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR SUBMISSION PLUS ANY CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES NECESSARY TO GIVE EFFECT TO OUR SUBMISSION.

Qv: Consequential submission

Part of the Plan Affected (Part/Pg/Topic):

Councils Activities and Programmes, Councils Activities and Services, economic development/ page 116/ what does council plan to do.

Our Submission is:

Although Council has said it will work with sustainable business networks (qv: Strategic Directions – Prosperous Economy/56/Goals and Objectives –item 6 & Strategic Directions/57/Who we need to work with) it has not allocated resources to help achieve that partnership arrangement.

SBN's experience is that even if Council Plans have sustainable development goals and outcomes, under the Councils current true cost accounting system, unless a proposal has a cost code and allocation, council divisions are unable to contribute to partnership programmes. SBN therefore seeks a resource allocation for promoting sustainable development in business for memberships, outreach and initiatives that support the Councils community outcomes

The relief we seek is:

ADD an item to *What is Councils Objective* as follows

"Promote Environmentally Sustainable Business Practices" (Ref: Strategic Directions – Prosperous Economy/56/Goals and Objectives –item 6)

AND populate the years 1-10 columns in the table with the words

"promoting sustainable development in business by membership of sustainable business organisations and their outreach and initiatives that support the Councils community outcomes"

AND adding a funding allocation of \$10K for this activity in the economic development area.

OR SUCH OTHER CHANGES THAT WOULD ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR SUBMISSION PLUS ANY CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES NECESSARY TO GIVE EFFECT TO OUR SUBMISSION.

Miscellaneous Submissions.

Part of the Plan Affected (Part/Pg/Topic):

Strategic Direction – Liveable Cities/55/Who we need to work

Our Submission is:

As well as the professional bodies listed the Environmental Institute of Australia and NZ now has a Canterbury chapter and is active in planning for future development in Canterbury and NZ

The relief we seek is:

Retain the section on Strategic Direction – Liveable Cities/Who we need to work with and ADD to the Professional Bodies in the second paragraph “***The Environment Institute of Australia & New Zealand (EIANZ)***”

OR SUCH OTHER CHANGES THAT WOULD ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR SUBMISSION PLUS ANY CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES NECESSARY TO GIVE EFFECT TO OUR SUBMISSION.