

SUBMISSION TO CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL
ON THE DRAFT LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN (LTCCP), 2006-2016

From the NEW ZEALAND PLANNING INSTITUTE - Canterbury Westland Branch

1. The New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI)

The New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI) comprises a total national membership of 1400 of whom 600 are qualified as full members. The Canterbury Westland Branch represents 150 members. The NZPI is the largest group of trained and professional people committed to shaping the future through planning for the improvement of our natural and built environment including the associated issues of conserving our heritage, cultural and social influences and encouraging a consultative and democratic planning process facilitating the improved quality of life for people. The NZ (Town) Planning Institute was founded in 1930 and its members have been deeply involved in these issues, through all the changes in government, statutes and community evolution since. The Canterbury Westland Branch of the NZPI, represents the Institute in the Canterbury Region and the Christchurch City area covered by this the Draft LTCCP.

2. Support to City Council Planning Functions

The NZPI Canterbury Westland Branch would like to generally congratulate the City Council on the thoroughness and preparation of its LTCCP. The NZPI is keen to support the City Council in all its planning activities. There are a group of statutes under which the Council undertakes planning activities (LGAct 2002, RMAAct 1991, LTMAAct 2003 and others) and it is to be expected that these planning functions are all reflected in this LTCCP. The NZPI wishes to indicate its support to the Council and the officers who have the arduous task of preparing the District Plan, the Transportation Strategy, Reserve Management Plans and other planning documents including this LTCCP.

3. Urban Development Strategy

There is only passing reference to the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS) (Page 71 of the LTCCP) and yet this issue is a driving force for the future of Canterbury's metropolitan centre. This lies within the City Development activity group although it is not clear what portion of that activity group's resources are to be applied to the UDS and whether this is an increase over previous years. This strategic function, of developing a vision and a strategic plan is seen, by the NZPI, as a key 'high level cog' needed to drive the preparation of a long term vision for the Christchurch metropolitan area.

It is appreciated that to move from the initial public consultation phase through to an agreed strategy, including ways and means of implementation, takes several years. However to have only a limited reference to this project within the LTCCP is regrettable. The project warrants special mention at the beginning of the section on Strategic Directions (page 49) where it could be 'recognised that these four 'strategic directions' will also be applied in the process of selection of the agreed metropolitan plan to be prepared as part of the UDS'.

The NZPI Canterbury Westland Branch requests the City Council to specifically recognise the Urban Development Strategy project in the City Development activity area and the importance and future intentions for this project should be identified and recognised.

4. Status of City Plan

The NZPI Canterbury Westland Branch submits that the LTCCP appears not to recognize the high level objectives included in the City Plan and their importance and supporting function in achieving the desired Community Outcomes contained in the LTCCP. Maintaining and reviewing the City Plan falls within the Regulatory Services activities and services in the LTCCP. On page 143 only four community outcomes are referred to as being contributed to by Regulatory Services, being Safety, Environment, Health and City Development. These four 'outcomes' do not acknowledge the comprehensive and significant role the City Plan has in achieving the community outcomes. All the outcomes

are, of course, supported by the City Plan and in particular the following three outcomes should be added:-

Governance – The process of preparing the City Plan, and of providing for full rights to make submissions, appear before Council for its determination on the plan and its changes, the right to appeal decisions to the Environment Court on Plan matters and resource consents is a significant part of Council's governance role. This process provides the most comprehensive opportunity for citizens to participate in the Council's decision making processes.

Community- A fundamental reason for managing land use and arranging the physical structure of settlements, open space, rural areas and communications through the City Plan is to create and redevelop successful communities which are safe, convenient, have variety and are liveable. Design for towns as well as new and redeveloped suburbs is driven by a desire to give a sense of place and belonging.

Prosperity – The City Plan and consequent decisions on resource consents has, over time, resulted in development being well planned and economically serviced and by ensuring provision and compatibility for a wide range of uses, adequate access, parking and service provision and maintenance of heritage and the garden city image, all of which contribute to the economy of the City.

The NZPI Canterbury Westland Branch requests that with the inclusion of 'Maintaining and Reviewing the City Plan' in the Regulatory Services activity this should be recognised (on page 143) by adding three further community outcomes of Governance (3 ticks), Community (2 ticks) and Prosperity (2 ticks) due to the significant role of the City Plan and its associated processes in achieving these outcomes.

5. Policy on Determining Significance

The NZPI Canterbury Westland Branch observes that for all Councils the unique and important function of planning for the community as a whole and using several different planning instruments, is possibly the most important function of local Government. There are a raft of strategic policies and management plans prepared under several Acts which also have significance. The draft criteria of significance (refer page 292) makes explicit reference to the LTCCP (first bullet point) but does not identify other strategic statutory and policy instruments which already exist. It is suggested that a further and second bullet point could be included to refer to these parallel documents. It would be expected that a full schedule of such documents should be available for the use of officers and the public.

The NZPI Canterbury Westland Branch requests that the Policy on Determining Significance include reference to the need for consistency with existing strategic Council policies as expressed in statutory documents such as the City Plan and other strategic documents which have been adopted by Council.

Yes the Branch would like to be heard in person

Signed on behalf of the Canterbury Westland branch of the New Zealand Planning Institute:



Stephanie Styles (Chairperson)

Dated: 5 May 2006

Address for Service of this Submission:

Duncan Whyte
Branch Secretary
Canterbury Westland Branch New Zealand Planning Institute
c/- Connell Wagner
P.O. Box 1061
Christchurch
Phone 366 0821
Fax 379 6955
Email whyted@conwag.com