
**Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū
Banks Peninsula Community Board
MINUTES ATTACHMENTS**

Date: Monday 8 June 2020
Time: 10am
Venue: Committee Room 1, Civic Offices
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch

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Banks Peninsula Community Board, Monday, June 8, 2020

Thank you for allowing time to discuss several items from the Board's agenda and Annual Plan submission. I understand that there is a degree of catching up to do so please disregard my comments if the matter has already been dealt with.

1. I support ECan's role in providing oversight of the Akaroa Wharf area during the cruise ship season which commences in approximately 4 months. However, there is no comment regarding the issues of overcrowding and tour buses nor has there been any communication from the Cruise Action Group about plans for the cruise season should it commence as scheduled. Cruise numbers will likely be reduced due to the COVID-19 epidemic. However, as discussions proceed with Australia, it is evident that a trans Tasmin tourism bubble is imminent which will likely allow for cruise ships to resume access to New Zealand ports including Akaroa which cannot provide professional management or the services of an actual port facility nor can it effectively screen passengers for COVID-19 prior to disembarking.
2. There is an immediate need to deal with the impact of COVID-19 which is often spread without the individual being aware that they are contagious. I have serious concerns about the health and safety of front-line staff at the Akaroa Library and Akaroa Museum in this regard because they are direct contact with domestic and international tourists. What measures are in place to ensure the protection of residents as well as visitors? The Council must be fully prepared for a domestic and trans Tasmin tourist season in the next 4 months. According to information from cruise lines (Silver Seas/Royal Caribbean and Coral Expeditions), their ships will be in Akaroa in November and December 2020 if not sooner.

A successful and sustainable visitor strategy is urgently required now, not sometime next year. By the time the annual plan is approved it likely be too late to provide necessary planning as well as putting essential safeguards in place.

I was not aware that 2 ambassadors boarded cruise ships to provide information and options for passengers wishing to take shore excursions. If this is true then why has the Council allowed a privately owned iSite and tour operators to occupy open public space in order to sell excursions directly to passengers as they disembark? Such activity is not allowed in any other NZ port. In addition, it gives an advantage to a select group of tour operators at a minimal cost which disadvantages local businesses that pay rent, rates and provide jobs year-round. Vendors and the iSite cabin congest the wharf entrance during the summer months. The commercial activity alienates members of the public from the use of a much-loved community resource in my view.

To my knowledge the Akaroa Design and Review Panel has yet to be formally established. However, the annual plan submission appears to refer to it as being active.

3. The Akaroa Issues Working Party was to meet one final time but the meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 lockdown. Will the meeting be rescheduled in the near future? Members may be able to offer insight and ideas on how best to establish a more representative community-based organisation to advise the Council and Board.
4. I read that that the \$4.5m Akaroa wharf renewal may be deferred. If this happens how does it impact cruise planning and management given the age and condition of the historic structure?

5. Has adequate funding been included in the Council's budget to continue freedom camping monitoring in Akaroa? This is an important item with regard to the spread of COVID-19 given the fact that all campers vans are required to be fully self-contained with an adequate holding tank, hand washing facilities and a toilet that can be used when the bed is made up or in use.

Event Planning needs to take into consideration the needs of the local community as well as considering COVID-19 requirements, other activities such as cruise ships and the availability of water during drought conditions.

6. The hearing for submissions to the Akaroa, Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility Improvements was cancelled. Has a new date been scheduled to hear submissions?

Thank you.

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