

**Waitai Coastal-Burwood Community Board
Submissions Committee
MINUTES ATTACHMENTS**

Date: Monday 4 April 2022
Time: 3.38pm
Venue: Audio/Visual Link

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SUBMISSION TO: Christchurch City Council

ON: Draft Annual Plan 2022/23

BY: Waitai Coastal-Burwood Community Board

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Waitai Coastal-Burwood Community Board appreciates the opportunity to make a submission to the Christchurch City Council on the Draft Annual Plan 2022/23.

The Board wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

In preparation for this submission, the Board hosted a Residents' Association Forum to get feedback from the residents in our Wards on this plan. The feedback we received is reflected in this document.

2. SUBMISSION

What do you think of our proposed average residential rates increase of 4.86% and 4.96% across all ratepayers (which is lower than the 4.97% signalled in the Long Term Plan 2021-31)?

The Board understands the need for the rates increase, as it is required to continue important project work. If this rates increase is adopted, then we would expect to see planned projects in our Ward get underway without further delay.

Our Board area is still waiting for infrastructure repairs from the earthquake (for example the Pages Road Bridge replacement) – we strongly recommend that the Council focusses on the 'must-have' work, rather than 'nice to have's such as road repairs/replacements for roads in the city that are not significantly damaged.

The Board notes that people in our Wards are struggling, and even a small increase in rates (like the proposed average increase of \$144) can have a big impact on household budgets. The Board would like to see an increase in rates relief from the maximum allowance of \$665 available now, and for this rebate to be made available to a broader range of people by lowering the abatement threshold.

Do you have any comments about our proposed changes to revenue, spending and borrowing?

The Board is pleased to see that the Council proposes to grant \$400,000 to the Pukeko Centre to assist with its building programme. The Pukeko Centre is a fantastic community-led facility that provides a range of services to meet the needs of a growing community. This grant will go some way to assisting the group to get Stage 2 of its work programme underway – the

installation of a sports hall. This hall will be used by a wide range of sports groups and community organisations.

It is good to see the Council supporting a public/private partnership in the form of funding for the Edgeware Pool. This will be a significant community asset for that area.

The Board is disappointed, however, that funding has not been made available to make the necessary changes to the Tairua QE2 pool change facilities. This pool is the single most visited facility in our two Wards. Regular users from as far away as Belfast, Kaiapoi and Papanui, as well as people from the Burwood Spinal Unit swim and socialise at our facility. The Community Board's Annual Plan Submission 2019 included a key concern relating to the lack of accessible change rooms and toilets at the facility – pool users currently have to walk 55 metres to access toilet facilities.

While this is not a challenge for physically able people, this distance is a real challenge for those with a wide range of disabilities. This group are a more vulnerable sector of the community that needs to be better supported with accessible facilities. The work to remedy this oversight has been scoped and costed, but not yet funded within the Long Term Plan or Annual Plan. This is an urgent priority for our Board.

The Board notes that \$238.4 million will be borrowed by the Council to fund the capital programme. This is a significant sum, and feedback from our Residents' Association Forum is that some residents are concerned with this level of borrowing, especially at a time when interest rates are going up, and our rates are already high. This borrowing will be repaid over the next 30 years, which will only increase the burden for our future ratepayers.

We are proposing some changes to our Revenue and Financing and Rates Remission policies – do you have any comments?

The Board is in support, in principle, of the proposed change to curbside collection rates that would allow multi-unit residential developments to opt out of kerbside collection, since they pay for this without being able to use it. We would like Council assurance that waste management providers are required to provide for rubbish, recycling and green waste collection, as this is often not the case currently.

The Board is in support of a new general rate differential for vacant central city land. We would like to see this approach extended to other areas where landbanking is occurring, for example in New Brighton.

Do you have any comments on our proposed changes to fees and charges?

While the standardisation of fees and charges is good in principle, this does mean that some residents will pay more at our facilities – charges have been creeping up year on year, making our facilities unaffordable for some.

The Board has a concern about the removal of library fines for residents – while we support measures that the Council can take to reduce barriers to access of our libraries, it creates a disincentive for people to return books promptly, which means other people cannot access popular books as readily.

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Do you have any comments about our capital programme (for example, our roads and footpaths, our water, wastewater, surface water and waterways, our facilities and our parks)?

Our Board has identified some 'quick-win' projects that would provide great benefit to our communities, and would like to see these funded through the Annual Plan:

- Lighting for the Anzac fronds that were recently installed on the corner of Anzac Drive and New Brighton Road.
- Funding for a feasibility study to support a campervan park in the red zone around Brooker Avenue. This has support from the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association and the Burwood East Residents' Association. A campervan park in this area would provide passive surveillance in an area that is subject to theft and vandalism from time to time.
- Funding for repairs in the Rawhiti Domain Carpark (new project, scoped and priced at \$400,000). This is a busy carpark, used by a wide range of groups across the city, and the damage is dangerous. The carpark is in need of immediate attention to avoid injury to users.

The Board is not happy to see that the Rawhiti Domain Sports Turf Renewal (#2245) has been moved from the 22/23 to the 23/24 financial year. This is urgent work and should be completed as soon as possible. We request that the budget be reinstated in the 22/23 budget.

The Board is pleased to see that budget for the Pages Road bridge is in place so work can begin on this as soon as possible. This is a key piece of infrastructure for our Board area, and we are grateful that it remains on track.

Any further comments

We continue to remind the Council that maintaining adequate levels of service are important to our residents. The Community Board has consistently heard that the community feels the Council has forgotten about the east side of Christchurch and that the current maintenance levels are not sufficient for the area. The Community Board has received regular complaints and is concerned that basic maintenance is not being completed in areas such as street cleaning, weeding and mowing, creating a negative perception of the area.



Bebe Frayle
Chairperson, Submissions Committee
WAITAI COASTAL-BURWOOD COMMUNITY BOARD

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