

Make Submission

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Event Name	Long-Term Plan 2018-28 Consultation
Submission by	Mr Shane Morrow (76826)
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Transport and Urban Development Support/Oppose

See page 13 of the Consultation Document.

Please select one of the following: I generally disagree with the activity proposed for Transport and Urban Development.

Transport and Urban Development Comments

Please provide any comments

I strongly disagree with the activity proposed for Transport and Urban Development.

Page 14 of the consultation document provides three options. All of these propose discontinuing the 145 Westmorland - Eastgate bus route. None of these options suggests there will be a replacement bus service for the suburb of Westmorland.

Westmorland is a rapidly expanding suburb, mainly of large family homes. There are currently dozens of new family homes being built in the Westmorland Heights subdivision with hundreds to come in future stages. We are zoned for Thorrington School and Cashmere High School. Neither of these schools are in walking distance from our homes in Westmorland.

Page 13 of your Consultation Document states "A resilient multi-modal transport system...limits the environmental impact of transport; improves social connectedness and wellbeing in communities..."

Removal of a bus service to Westmorland increases the use of cars as this suburb is not in walking distance to local amenities so will have a detrimental effect on the environment. It limits the social connectedness of teenagers and the elderly (those who cannot drive). Our teenagers rely on the bus to travel independently to and from school and also in the weekends.

There are several problems with the 145 bus route which need review in my opinion:

It does not link Westmorland people with where they want or need to go: local zoned schools, workplaces in Addington and the city, shopping in the city, at Barrington and Riccarton.

A small bus is on service at the end of the Cashmere High school day. This is overcrowded with school students when heading up the Westmorland hill.

Large buses are often on service during the day. These are often empty or nearly empty.

The 145 bus route only goes part-way up Westmorland hill. The buses do an awkward loop around the Penruddock Rise roundabout. People living on the upper 2/3 of the hill have to walk up the hill to get home and down the hill to catch a bus. This makes many choose not to use the service - particularly in inclement weather.

If the bus service to Westmorland is reviewed then I am certain that patronage would improve. Here are my suggestions:

Alter the route so it goes all the way up Ravensdale Rise (via Sedgwick Way as at present), and then down Penruddock Rise. This would make the bus more accessible to residents on the upper part of the hill, including the rapidly-growing Westmorland Heights subdivision.

Replace the 145 route by extending the current Blue Line service instead. Currently every second Blue Line bus runs up Cashmere Hill while the other Blue Line bus terminates at Princess Margaret Hospital. My suggestion is that one bus continues to service Cashmere Hill and the second bus is extended to service Westmorland. This would enable connections to be made from Westmorland for the Orbiter route (towards Barrington, Addington and Riccarton) and also would mean the bus passes by both zoned schools without the need for transferring.

Be strategic about placing full size buses on the route to coincide with the start and end of the school day.

It is inconceivable that ECAN is seriously considering the total removal of bus services in a growing suburban area when it should be encouraging people out of their cars and onto public transport.

Regards,

Shane Morrow