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To whom it may concern please find my Submission in regards to the 535 bus service

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I am writing this submission in regard to the 535 Eastgate – Lyttelton and Rapaki bus service. I work as a community facilitator in Lyttelton I have been approached by various people in our community to state the importance of this bus service to them as well as see the need of this service daily for many of those in our area throughout the year, for a variety of reasons as I state below.

Here in Lyttelton and surrounding area we have both young families and elderly who use the bus this service is key to them in not only being able to maintain their independence and assisted in them being socially active. There is a great deal of evidence in relation to social isolation and its impact on mental and physical wellbeing. I believe the cancelation of this service would have a negative impact for the elderly in our community on their wellbeing and independence.

In Lyttelton we no longer have any banks for resident between Lyttelton and Rapaki to access which means having to get to East gate or Ferrymead. At Eastgate there are also several other services which people can access such as the supermarket, Work and Income, a range of social support services (The Loft), hairdressers, and cafes and eating places. These are all activities which can be viewed as a necessity for people to access for example having to attend WINZ appointments or access a doctor's surgery which is cheaper than the one in port. (These are all things that someone on a pension, benefit or limited income must consider)

During the summer this service is also very popular with not only the local young people but also those who come through the tunnel to use the local beaches. Some of these young people also live in Cass or Coursir Bay and need the service after School when they have stayed late for activities.

Talking with people that use the bus service they would be totally happy if some of the times were reduced but if they could still access the service several times a week, how about making the service go to Governors Bay, as residence there have no bus service at all.