

From: Julian Vesty <julian.vesty1991@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 March 2018 5:03 p.m.
To: Mailroom Mailbox
Subject: LTP Submission

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to make a submission on proposed changes to bus services in Greater Christchurch.

Environment Canterbury appears to think that it can save money in the long term by discontinuing bus routes and increasing waiting times. On the surface, this may appear to be true; several inconsequential routes will no longer be supplied with vehicles, drivers and petrol. However, the overall effect of these changes makes the entire service less effective and will result in long-term decline.

To illustrate the point, I will cite the case of the 535 in accessing Heathcote Valley, a suburb I lived in until very recently. In the past, after finishing work or study in the Upper Riccarton area, I would take the Purple Line from Riccarton to Ferymead, catching the 535 for the final leg home. However, with the 535 line gone, it is no longer profitable to use the Purple Line, because there is no longer a connecting line. The same might be said for the other lines; they help to improve the versatility of the major routes, and will have a profoundly negative effect once discontinued.

On a broader note, Environment Canterbury appears to be blithely unaware that its continual cutting of services and increase in fares is the fundamental cause to the ongoing decline of public transport in Canterbury. The more expensive bus services become and the less frequent they become, the less likely members of the public are to use them. The 535 offers another example of how bus ridership declines. When the line ran every half hour, it offered a convenient line. However, when cut to just once per hour, the service became far less convenient; any sensible person would be aware that a bus service which runs with such infrequency is fundamentally useless, not to mention debilitating for elderly and disabled users.

In conclusion, I would urgently plead with Environment Canterbury not merely to reconsider its proposed cuts, but ultimately to radically rethink its operating strategy. Cutting services does not save money in the long run, even in apparently marginal lines. Rather it erodes the overall usability of the service, discouraging passengers and accelerating a downward spiral in the usefulness of the service. I encourage you to carefully consider this message, and show that you are aware of the needs of the Cantabrian public.

Kind regards,

Julian Vesty

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