

Make Submission

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Event Name	Long-Term Plan 2018-28 Consultation
Submission by	Mr Alan Clelland (77669)
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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 disagree with the proposal to delete the Westmorland to Eastgate bus service.

In the winter months particularly, this is a vital service for my children to get to and from school, particularly on wet days.

This service was part of the reason for us selecting Westmorland in our shifting house from Huntsbury in 2016. Our children attend Christchurch South Intermediate and Cashmere High School. They normally bike to school and my wife and I bike to work and we strongly resist becoming part of the group of parents who drive their children to school when there are public transport options. On wet days and days when sports equipment etc needs to be carried, this bus service is excellent for us as it passes right by both schools and its demise would be a real hassle for us resulting in more cars on the congested streets of Christchurch,

We understand the economic issues around poorly patronised bus services but we consider cancelling the service rather than exploring options for modifying it to be short sighted and lacking in sufficient effort to address the issue.

Possible options could include;

- 1 At the least a morning and afternoon service to cater to the school students and commuters.
- 2 Changing the route to cater to residents wishing to commute to the city centre to boost patronage. This would address the problem for Westmorland residents needing to get to PMH/Blue Line if they want a reasonably regular and direct bus service to the city centre. Transferring at Colombo St after the slow heavy traffic route through the Barrington area discourages patronage.
- 3 Extending some or the Blue Line services to Westmorland, similar to the ones which extend up Cashmere Hill. On wet days, I frequently drive my car to park at PMH and take the Blue Line into the city. Extending a couple of morning and late afternoon services to Westmorland would capture patronage from people like me and the Cashmere High students. It would be not too far for my other son to get off at Strickland St and walk to Christchurch South Intermediate from there. Although that would not be ideal, it would be better than no service at all!

These three suggestions are, I consider workable and would be a viable compromise between the needs of the residents and the economic realities of low patronage on the existing service.

I urge ECAN to put more effort into considering options such as these rather than the somewhat crude response of just cutting the route altogether.

I am happy to be contacted to speak further about these ideas.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this decision-making process.

Alan Clelland

9 Somerton Rise

Westmorland.