

Make Submission

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Public Transport Options

Public Transport is one of the programmes in the Transport and Urban Development portfolio. For the first year of the Long-Term Plan 2018-28 we are proposing changes to the Public Transport programme as outlined in the **Consultation Document**.(on page 14)

To make comment on the Public Transport proposed changes please complete the selection panel below.

To make comment on the the whole Transport and Urban Development portfolio, please use the tab on the left.

Please review the options in the Consultation Document and indicate which option you support: Option 4 – none of the above. (Please provide comment/ideas for an alternative solution)

Public Transport Comments

Please provide any comments.

Dear Ecan Councillors

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the LTP in particular on the proposed changes to the bus routes that impact the eastern suburbs. I would like to speak to this submission if I get the opportunity.

As MP for the Christchurch East Electorate I have taken numerous calls on the changes to bus routes as proposed. Everyone understands the needs to allocate resources effectively and efficiently, but

public transport must be a priority in the context that we should encourage people out of their cars and on to buses, bicycles and walking.

Public Transport and in particular buses, must be a priority in any future and long term planning of the Region. The planning must be consistent with the Christchurch City Council and Central Government plans and priorities and clearly the ECan proposed changes are out of step. Also I understand the central governments policy commitments to public transport are yet to be announced and I would ask ECan to hold back from major changes until these announcements are made and engages in full discussion with the Government on this.

One of the major criticisms of the LTP process but particularly the changes to proposed bus routes, is the lack of leadership in a regional approach to transport, considering the population growth patterns, the changing demography and the build of facilities and infrastructure which will require people to have transport options to get them to and from work, school, home and shops. An example from my area is the lack of planning to bring people to the new QEII swimming facility opening in June or the two new high schools opening in 2019.

My constituents report that changes will restrict their ability to get to shops and social activities and will increase isolation of older people and those with mobility issues or lack of other forms of transport. My constituents are also concerned at how consultation has occurred and the lack of opportunity, other than through this submission process. I must say I am disappointed at not have a response to my request for an ECan staff member to support a public meeting to inform people how to engage in the submission process. I am still waiting to hear back from my phone call the ECan a couple of weeks ago. However this is par for the course as I recently met with a constituent who is still waiting for a response to her written query regarding changes to bus routes and the difficulty she experiences as an older citizen trying to get to the shops at Parklands from Burwood.

The New Brighton community knows only too well the impact that removing bus services can have on their community. As I have already discussed with ECAN, the result of a survey conducted by my office a couple of years ago when changes were made, predicted a loss of patronage and resulting closing of services. 1000 people responded to a survey that went to 5000 households, a staggering return rate, calling on the retention of services as they feared the loss of services. They were right and recently two banks closed in the mall.

This situation also demonstrates that ECan is out of step with efforts to revitalise the New Brighton Mall and surrounding area. Development Canterbury and CCC have invested in programs and infrastructure to bring people into the area. Despite talk of a possible Bus Hub on the Beresford St/Oram Ave area, this has not materialised. When considering future bus routes, please take into consideration the ability to transfer from one bus to another and one line to another, at a central point, with some shelter from the cold and rain. One of my constituents has campaigned for a bus stop outside the supermarket in New Brighton for years.

I would also want ECan to advocate for a different model than PTOM as this has driven the conversation to one of cost versus service. Public Transport must be available to all who need it, inexpensive and accessible and to go to the places they need to go.

Please reconsider this proposed change and consult with your community in the appropriate and effective manner they deserve.

Regards Poto Williams