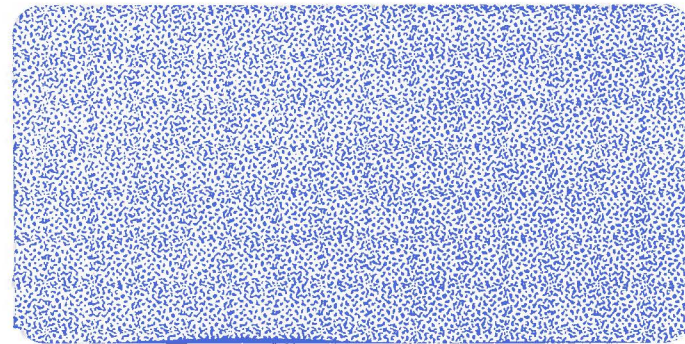


CARRIED BY NEW ZEALAND POST 810-15 1132 26MAR18

>>>>GOT A QUESTION? VISIT WWW.NZPOST.CO.NZ/HELP<<<<



RECEPTION		
EC - CHCH		
FILE REF:		
DOCUMENT No:		
26 MAR 2018		ACTION
13028		
		INFO



26 March 2018

Environment Canterbury
200 Tuam Street
Christchurch
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140

EC - CUCH	
FILE REF:	
DOCUMENT No.: 13921	
28 MAR 2018	
ACTION	INFO

Submission on the Long Term Plan – Transport Plan

I am writing to make submission on the ECan Long Term Plan (LTP), in particular the proposed changes to public transport.

As the Member of Parliament for Christchurch Central, I see public transport as a vital part of a dynamic and modern city. This is especially true in Christchurch. The city centre is growing and as people return to live and work here, a quality bus service is a critical part of any modern transport network.

The bus network provides a valuable service to all residents, but especially the most vulnerable, children, elderly, mobility impaired and those who cannot drive or afford to travel independently. If we want to build a city for all, we need to ensure that the public transport network is comprehensive and available to all.

I understand that there are budgeting constraints and that the shape of the city has changed since the earthquakes. However, the current plan lacks vision and is precipitate. I am very concerned that the “options” proposed are all variations on a theme – namely cutting services and increasing prices. It is my strongly held view that this will have a very detrimental effect on the bus services in the longer term. It sends a signal of deterioration and hopelessness when we need an innovative and energised public transport system.

The three options all include cutting six bus services and an increase in bus fares. This undermines an effective and efficient public transport service. Cutting services and raising fares will decrease accessibility to the network and therefore patronage. This will have flow on effects.

In the longer term Christchurch needs a better, and more comprehensive network that is reliable and timely. I recognise that there are some structural issues in the way in which contracts are let which may hinder this and warrant re-examination. However we need to emphasise service, quality and innovation to engender the increases in patronage we need to have a financially sustainable bus network that reduces congestion, provides mobility to our communities, and reduces our carbon emissions.

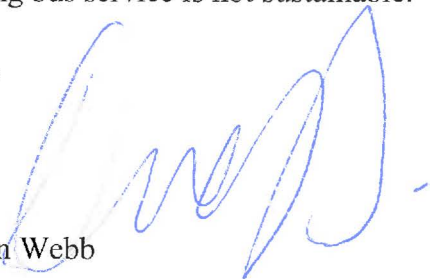
Christchurch, like any city is continually changing. Since the earthquakes, the changes have been even greater. However, there is one trend that cannot be overlooked and that is the movement for more sustainable and clean cities. Developing public transport should be a key objective in a forward thinking LTP. It is critical in our fight against climate change and congestion in our growing city.

I would also impress the importance of measuring the proposals not simply against budget, but against the extant Regional Public Transport Plan. It is difficult to accept that the approach delivers the key objective of having available public transport services to access major employment, shopping, medical, entertainment, recreational and education facilities.

I also note that this Plan is due for review and therefore these changes are premature. Any significant change should be consulted on as a part of this wider public transport review, and not in an ad hoc manner.

A shrinking bus service is not sustainable.

Ngā mihi,



Dr Duncan Webb



Parliamentary Office

☎ 04 817 8783 or 021 244 3346
✉ duncan.webb@parliament.govt.nz
✉ Parliament Buildings,
Private Bag 18 888
Wellington 6160

Christchurch Electorate Office

☎ 03 366 5519
✉ chchcentral@parliament.govt.nz
✉ 282-290 Durham St North
(Science Alive complex, Riverside)
Christchurch

 /DuncanWebbLabour

 @Duncan_Webb_

Authorised by Dr Duncan Webb, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

