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**Submission to the Canterbury Regional Council (ECAN) Long Term Plan  
Transport and Urban Development**

We wish to make a submission to Ecan's Long Term Plan 2018-2028 on the future public transport options being considered. In particular, we are concerned at the level of service provided in the Halswell, Westmorland and Spreydon suburbs. It is essential that when making decisions on bus services that communities of interest are a priority guideline here. For example, where do those living in these suburbs shop and go to school, which library do they go to and where are the community facilities that they use?

Therefore, we suggest that there are 3 basic principles to be followed in a review of Canterbury's Transport Options. These are:

1. Communities of interest are the priority when deciding on transport routes
2. Increasing reliance on public transport to counter the overuse of cars in urban centres and
3. The environmental effects of transport options be a priority.

These principles are all based on in-depth knowledge of the community, knowledge that we would suggest Ecan does not have. The Christchurch City Council has community boards across the city and is in a much more informed position to make these decisions. Therefore, our first recommendation is that future transport options for Christchurch city be informed by local communities and decided by city councillors in conjunction with community board members.

Our second recommendation is that consultation over future bus routes and times is done with local schools (who would be the biggest users of public transport before and after school) and with local organisations especially those whose members are more reliant on public transport than others (older people and those who need the bus to ensure they can get to shops and community facilities). For instance, McKenzie lives out in McQueens Valley Road and goes to the Seven Oaks school in Murphys Road in Halswell. Currently she travels after school from Caulfield Ave to the Halswell library on the orange line metro bus. It is essential that this service continues so that she is able to independently travel after school. McKenzie also comes to my home at the top of the Westmorland hill after school and to Pioneer pool for gym classes so she also needs public transport around these areas. The current service that has children changing buses all over the city to access local suburb services is just not appropriate for safety reasons and for ease of access to community services.

While we can acknowledge that transport services must be sustainable (and is currently not being used by many people), not providing bus services will only increase the number of cars on our roads and will lead to isolation for those who are unable to drive. Ecan's key objective of restoring the financial position of the bus network will not be achieved if bus services are not available and not used.

In fact, increasing the level of public transport (based on communities of interest as opposed to just getting around the city) would likely lead to increased use of the bus service and ultimately mitigate the environmental effects of the large number of cars crisscrossing the city every day.

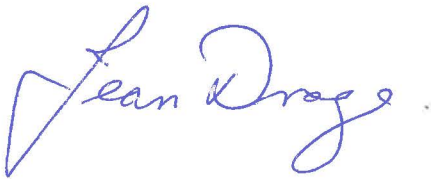
Recommendations:

1. Future transport options for Christchurch city be informed by local communities and decided by city councillors in conjunction with community board members (not by Ecan)
2. Consultation over future bus routes and times is done with local schools (who would be the biggest users of public transport before and after school) and with local organisations especially those whose members are more reliant on public transport than others (older people and those who need the bus to shop and to get to community facilities).
3. Bus services should be based on improving access and increasing use rather than on saving money.

We note that the Christchurch City Council is also currently reviewing its long-term plans (which include transport) so it is an appropriate time to either pass public transport planning to them or to work collaboratively with them on future options.

Please contact us if you would like further information.

Yours sincerely



Jean and McKenzie Drage

**CC. Christchurch City Council**