

Submission on Consultation Document for Environment Canterbury Long Term Plan 2015/2025

The Hurunui youth council appreciates the opportunity to submit on the Environment Canterbury Consultation Document for the Long-Term Plan 2015/2025.

The youth council is a group of under 25 yr. olds who work and make decisions on behalf of the Hurunui youth. We are a sub-committee of the District council and have regular meetings where we discuss issues and plans for the future. The Hurunui Youth council have discussed and identified some key changes we wish to see in the long-term plan for Environment Canterbury. These ideas are based around the Hurunui youths needs and wants while keeping in mind general sustainability. We are looking forward to and are grateful for the opportunity to consult and meet the ECAN team in person to fully discuss our ideas and thoughts on the Long-term plan.

Transport.

Transport is still a massive issue for young people, especially in rural areas such as Hurunui. We would like to see bus and other means of public transport plans being prioritised in the future. The accessibility of public transport is extremely important for rural regions such as Hurunui as it's what builds a strong, connected and thriving young set of people. Connections and social interactions are what build a community and currently it's extremely hard to get around the district without personally driving. This makes it hard for social interactions within youth as a majority don't or can't drive and it's very costly. A strong transport service is crucial for Hurunui and other rural districts as it allows youth to come together and connect without costing them extensive amounts, while preventing illegal driving. The Hurunui youth council would like to see a more long term and set plan for regular busses (or vans) that interchange the major townships within the Hurunui. These buses would allow youth to connect and come together on weekends and afterschool, thus encouraging social interactions. We believe that by introducing a more regular and reliable bus service it would directly decrease illegal driving as youth will choose buses and public transport due to it being easier, and cheaper.

These busses should be daily, rotating before and after school hours while also on weekends. Buses potentially would be interchanging all the major townships within the Hurunui, have a regular time schedule and prices changing depending on distance travelled.

We on the council believe that all youth within our district should be given the opportunity to interact with other youth and socialise, we recognise that currently a major limitation towards socialising is the lack of available public transport within the Hurunui and see this as a great opportunity for Environment Canterbury to invest in the community, the people, but most importantly the up and coming youth.

These transport facilities would not only benefit the youth, more public transport could benefit tourism, travellers and everyday families. People would use these to get around day to day, not just the youth, although it is the 'youth' that we see this benefiting the most. We understand that things like this cost a lot to set up and run however we think that the advantages (bring communities together, making it easier for travellers and families trying to get around, etc) outweigh the costs

and risk that come with this decision. This would be a massive project, however, we strongly believe it's worth it.

Thank you for your time.

Kind Regards,

Omri Kepes

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Hurunui Youth Council