

Comments

LTP 2021-31

Comment ID	1141
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First name	Victoria
Surname	Andrews
Email address	
Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?	No, I'm submitting as an individual
Which organisation are you submitting on behalf of?	Akaroa Civic Trust
Which age category are you in?	-
Do you have any further comments on the activities proposed in specific portfolio/s (please select all those you wish to comment on):	
Where do you live in Canterbury? Select your district below:	-
Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Kaikoura	
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Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Christchurch

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Selwyn

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Ashburton

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Mackenzie

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Timaru

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Waimate

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Waitaki

Do you wish to speak to your submission? Yes

We may use your phone number to contact you to arrange attendance at a hearing. This information will be kept private.

Phone number

How did you find out about giving feedback?

Your information is held and administered by Environment Canterbury in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020 and Environment Canterbury's Privacy Policy.

There is personal information/contact details in my submission I do not want disclosed: No

From:
To:
Cc: [Paula Comerford](#)
Subject: Akaroa Civic Trust, LTP Submission, April 11, 2021
Date: Sunday, 11 April 2021 4:12:58 pm
Attachments: [ACT ECan LTP Sub April 11 2021.pdf](#)

Dear ECan,

Please find attached the LTP submission of the Akaroa Civic Trust.

Regards,

Victoria Andrews, Deputy Chair

AKAROA CIVIC TRUST

P.O. Box 43 Akaroa 7542

www.akaroacivictrust.co.nz

April 11, 2021

ECan LTP Long Term Plan 2021-31 Submission, email:

Submitter: The Akaroa Civic Trust, Paula Comerford, secretary ph. email:
and/or Victoria Andrews, Deputy Chair, ph.

email:

Address:

- The Akaroa Civic Trust wishes to be heard in support of our submission

Introduction

The Akaroa Civic Trust is a volunteer society that has been working to preserve the historic character and natural amenity of the town and surrounding area, inclusive of the harbour, since 1969. In recent years mass tourism has often overwhelmed the town since the arrival of large cruise ships. Prior to COVID-19 several large ships per day would often anchor in the harbour from November through until early April every year. Little, if any, formal monitoring was undertaken in relation to the potential disturbance of the seabed, air quality and discharge.

Submission

The Akaroa Civic Trust generally supports the work of ECan and the Regional Harbourmaster in relation to the Akaroa harbour area. The marine biosecurity of the harbour is fundamental to the wellbeing of the ecosystem as well as to those who live and work in the harbour basin.

Cruise ship visits increased dramatically following the February 2011 earthquake that devastated and closed the Port of Lyttelton. COVID-19 has allowed an opportunity to evaluate the cruise industry's impact on the marine ecosystem of the harbour including seabed disturbance, air quality, noise and lack of public access to and overcrowding on the wharf. Buses picking up and dropping off passengers cause considerable parking problems, traffic congestion and air pollution in the township and as they drive between Akaroa and Christchurch.

Cruise activity is jointly managed by Christchurch City Council and ECan. Adequate funding is required to ensure appropriate monitoring of cruise activity once borders open to international visitors and cruising commences.

The Trust therefore supports the work of the Regional Harbourmaster in relation to the Akaroa harbour area. It also supports any opportunities to increase fees that will assist Ecan increase ways of monitoring the effects of non-recreational ships on the harbour.

Monitoring should include camera observations and use of drones to detect disturbance to the seabed, discharge, and air quality.

The Civic Trust also supports appropriate risk assessment, stricter controls on the number and size of ships wishing to access Akaroa and limiting the number of available anchorage spaces in the harbour.

The cruise terminal and berth area at the Port of Lyttelton provides an alternative for the need to access Akaroa's harbour. Large ships should be directed to the Lyttelton terminal where they can be safely accommodated and where suitable provisions are in place for transport, management and monitoring of passengers.

Akaroa lacks a port facility and there is no area available or means to monitor cruise passengers for illness as they disembark. In addition, Akaroa is 75 kilometres from Christchurch where emergency services and agencies are based should an accident take place. Akaroa must rely upon a small medical hub and a volunteer fire brigade for emergency services.

In conclusion

The Trust supports a thorough review of the Regional Coastal Plan with an emphasis on protecting and improving the marine environment in Akaroa harbour, ensuring the wellbeing of local communities and the implementation of a fully funded user payers' policy. If the objectives of the Coastal Plan are to be met, then there must be a monitoring framework that can measure the effects of the harbour and have a robust process to protect it.

In summary that means enact policies and apply fees as necessary to ensure that those objectives are met.