

**From:** Environment Canterbury  
**Sent:** Friday, 11 March 2022 7:05 am  
**To:** Have your Say  
**Subject:** Submission on draft Annual Plan 2022/23

Anonymous User just submitted 'Draft Annual Plan 2022/23 submission' with the responses below.

**First name**

Julian

---

**Last name**

Suggate

---

**Email address**

---

**Suburb**

Mount Pleasant, Christchurch

---

**Phone number**

---

**Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?**

No, I'm submitting as an individual

---

**Which age category are you in?**

40-64 years old

---

**Do you wish to speak to your submission at a Council hearing?**

No

---

**Which bus fare structure option would you like to see trialled?**

Option 2: \$2 flat fare for adults and \$1.20 for children across bus zones 1, 2 and 3

---

**Tell us more about why you support the selected bus fare option.**

Short version: Public transport should be free for everyone. Let's move away from this silly idea of building bigger roads and instead give people better options of free travel when they're in solo transit! But given the options presented I have chosen the flat fee as I imagine it will provide a reasonably persuasive structure for the largest number of people, and that is what I think is desperately needed. Longer version and background on why I think this matters: I live by Sumner causeway that has high traffic at rush hour. Several times I have walked down and calculated the ratio of single-occupancy vehicles vs dual-occupancy or greater. The number is usually about 15:1. This is after removing single-occupant tradies vans and similar hauling vehicles from the equation. Just average people on their way to or from work, dragging a mostly hollow shell with wheels and a huge amount of wasted space behind them. We desperately need rethink the nonsensical way we use up so much of the tarmac for each person. Objectively, although completely normalised, it's actually a very selfish comfort. The problem is, people feel like they have no alternative, but while this is true for some journeys, in some places, for some people, and I'm not looking to shame anyone individually - for most of us there are actually many ways to reduce car usage today. They come with payoffs we might not realise we're even missing out on, until we give it a go. Get a bike, if you're able bodied enough, an ebike if you're less so. It's a nice way to be out into the warm days, and if you take a change of clothes in winter you'll never be cold again as a good ride can keep you warm all day. Catch the bus, rub shoulders with others, and read a book without any need to watch the road or steer the vehicle. (If you're not able bodied for either of these things, then maybe you're one of those who actually NEEDS that single person gas guzzler.) But let's face it, these incentives aren't visible for a lot of us. Car-ing around is how most of us have always done it. The inconvenience seems too great, especially since everyone seems so increasingly short of time so far this millennium (just something I think I've picked up on over my 44 years, can't say it's reliable but seems that way to me). Sure, the causeway gets backed up a long way. And hey, it seems like there is a huge crowd of people on their way to work, of course a few queues are to be expected, right? I've been both a car commuter and a tradie freighting gear at rush hour, and it certainly seems like the city is popping, so many \*people\* around! A bit of a wait is fine - tune in to RDU, Pulzar or RNZ, or burn through some chapters of Elif Shafak at 1.5 speed. But if you visualise how each car is mostly empty space. Here in the causeway to Sumner at least it is fewer than one hundred people creating an impediment for buses, making that option far less attractive than it would be with fewer cats on the road. Other road users like the tradies I mentioned who have no other choice but to drive are slowed down from from getting to where they need to be. 100 peeps getting frustrated and erratic, creating a

danger for the few cyclists. 100 cars, barely moving. No one designed this -- no one is personally to blame -- it's an emergent property of consumerism and chaos. Legislation never addressed this buccaneering take-over of our public roads. But it makes no sense that the first 100 people on the road should disable it for all others and endanger us all. And I haven't even mentioned yet the noxious greenhouse gases blowing out of the tailpipes, each combustion engine collectively responsible for the greatest hazard our species has so far faced. If it were bikes and buses, that causeway could hold probably ten times as many people. With a massive reduction in fossil fuel emissions. If you can and do choose the bike option, you'll get to experience all seasons outdoors (better than it sounds, trust me). And of course big savings on petrol... Unless you swap driving for bussing, in which case all your savings will get eaten up and given back to all those still driving cars in the form of council rates or petrol taxes they should be paying to make public transport free. This makes no sense. We should be encouraging people to catch buses everywhere, after all it benefits everyone, but instead we expect them to lose out on time, and charge them high prices to do so. End result? Most everyone on a bus is using it reluctantly. smh. Please let sanity prevail in the next few years, and make public transport free! I hope you enjoyed reading if you got this far!

---

**Is borrowing and repaying through general rates the right approach for this regionally significant event?**

Don't know

---

**Which option for distribution of rates in Ashburton River rating district do you support?**

I don't have a preference

---

**Would you support a levy to accelerate action in response to climate change?**

Yes

---

**What current or future projects or activities would you like to see funded by such a levy?**

Not just mitigation, but encouraging people and businesses to change behaviours. Make the central city car free. Take ecocide perpetrators to court by joining other councils in class-action lawsuits.

---

**Any other comments on future funding for responding to climate change?**

No Answer

---

**Where did you hear about the consultation?**

Social media (Facebook, Instagram)

---