

**From:** Environment Canterbury  
**Sent:** Saturday, 5 March 2022 5:09 pm  
**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**

Dana

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**Last name**

Dopleach

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**Email address**

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**Suburb**

Lyttelton, Lyttelton

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**Phone number**

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

No, I'm submitting as an individual

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**Which age category are you in?**

40-64 years old

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

No

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

Option 1 (preferred): Fare-free for under 25s, students, Total Mobility and Community Services card holders

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

All three options miss the most important point of public transport - getting people out of their cars. If buses were free for ALL metrocard holders - using rates to cover the costs for residents, and a metrocard option for tourists to pay a fixed fee for their time in the city - then more people who don't currently use buses may start to use the bus system. They'd be paying for it anyway, so they may as well get the benefit of having it! This gets local residents out of their cars, at least within otherwise congested areas such as the City Centre, Riccarton, and near large events. The targeted sectors with these three options are those who are already using the bus system, so we gain the rates cost of free transport, as those who currently use the system would no longer be paying, without encouraging new users. This helps the budgets of families with secondary and university students, but doesn't work towards the important goal of making public transport a financially sensible thing for most people to use. With all three options (plus the current fare prices) it is far cheaper for our family to drive our car into town than it is to use public transport. So while our student transport cost would decrease, our family's public transport use would remain exactly the same as it is now. If buses were free to use, then we would at the very least park & ride for city centre events, school meetings, & centre of town restaurant or café trips, and would use the bike/bus option for outings further from city centre. We would also explore the city centre more fully as we used to when the free yellow buses were running, as we didn't have to walk as far from our car to wherever we were going in those days thanks to the yellow bus.

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**Any other comments on bus fares?**

They should all be free to encourage all rates payers to take advantage of the public transport system, and reduce the traffic load within the city, and provide more value to city residents from having a public transport system.

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

Yes

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

I don't have a preference

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

Yes

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

Free public transport for everyone. Re-greening the Red-Zone. STOP MOWING THE LAWNS and let nature reclaim this area. This saves us money, lowers our local temperature, would provide habitat for wildlife, would improve localised soils which in turn would provide improved flood resistance as the soil would absorb significantly more water than the current compacted soils with short grass do now. Plus natural spaces provide improved mental health & opportunities for exercise for those who visit them.

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

Social media (Facebook, Instagram)

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