

From: Environment Canterbury
Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 7:55 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

Daniel

Last name

McNeill

Email address

Phone number

Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?

Yes, I'm submitting on behalf of an organisation

Which organisation are you submitting on behalf of?

Special Character Committee (CCC)

Which age category are you in?

15– 24 years old

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

Yes

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

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

On behalf of the Special Character Committee, we wholeheartedly support making fares free for under 25s, students, Total Mobility and Community Services card holders. In Christchurch 53% of our carbon dioxide emissions come from transport. An equitable, accessible public transport system is vital if we are to meet our goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050. A major barrier to accessibility and equity is the cost of public transport fares. For many people in Christchurch it is still cheaper to travel in a private car, despite the ownership costs, the harmful emissions and the increased congestion this causes. Many students within our school are completely dependent on our public transport system, meaning that families are forced to pay over \$700 for each child just to get to school and back home. We have a duty as a Special Character Committee to fight for our students and their best wishes, to act as stewards in times of need, and with the pandemic taking place now, we will always fight to make sure our students are able to come to school without the massive financial burden of bus fares. By making public transport free for these groups ECAN is removing this barrier, and helping to make it easier for more people to choose a more sustainable transport option. It also signals ECAN's commitment to lowering Christchurch's emissions. The climate crisis is happening now and now is the time to support people to choose sustainable transport. We cannot afford to wait.

Any other comments on bus fares?

We also believe it would be beneficial for a flat fee to be introduced for others that are not included in the free bus fare system, as we have seen an increase of people who now rely on buses and public transport due to increased petrol prices. There are people in Christchurch, such as teachers and nurses, who not only have to work outside of their shifts but also have to pay for bus fares (which can cost up to \$1400 per adult). It is important that people are able to go to work or places of study without the weight of paying harsh amounts of money every week, and we believe that this will help to create a more equitable and sustainable transport system.

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

Don't know

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

We would support inclusion of young people within discussions of this, whether through schools or allocating a youth member of discussion panels. It is vital that we provide our perspectives. We also expect collaboration with all community groups that will be affected by these decisions (such as Pacifica communities and Māori communities).

Any other comments on Environment Canterbury's draft Annual Plan or other matters?

We believe that many of the points are beneficial, however, we hope that Environment Canterbury will consider our views on bus fares as they don't just affect us, they affect thousands in Waitaha.

Where did you hear about the consultation?

Print ad or billboard

Word of mouth

News article

Social media (Facebook, Instagram)
