

From: Environment Canterbury
Sent: Sunday, 3 April 2022 4:41 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

Nicholas

Last name

Dewhurst

Email address

Suburb

Ilam, Christchurch

Phone number

Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?

No, I'm submitting as an individual

Which age category are you in?

15– 24 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 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.

Kia Ora, My name is Nicholas Dewhurst and I am a first-year engineering student from Kapiti studying at the University of Canterbury. I am 18 years old, and I rely on buses as my primary mode of transportation. I have lived in Christchurch for about two months, but I will probably be living here for a while after I have graduated because I think it's an amazing place. I wholeheartedly support making fares free for under 25s, students, Total Mobility, and Community Services cardholders. 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. For many students, money is in short supply because we're juggling our time working and studying, and the cost of studying is significant even with a student loan. By making the busses free, that money can go towards paying for the accommodation and improving our lifestyle. It would also encourage more students out of their cars because they will finally realise how convenient public transport is. Becoming less car-centric will also benefit the city by making land use more efficiently. Currently, so much land is required just for parking lots. These dead spaces aren't generating nearly enough tax revenue for the city compared to if they were filled with densely packed retail spaces. If we encourage more people out of their cars and into busses, the need for car parks will decrease, therefore generating more tax revenue for the city. 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?

I think that along with making busses fees-free, commuter trains should be started up again. Coming from the Kapiti coast, I could get into wellington within an hour very easily because of the extensive commuter train network there. These trains are vital to wellington's economy and are used by everyone,

no matter how rich or poor. I was shocked to find out that this is not how it is run in Canterbury. If you want to travel long distances you need to have a car. That is why our transport emissions are so high. This could change if commuter train services were started up instead of just using the tracks for freight and tourist attractions.

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

Where did you hear about the consultation?

Word of mouth
