

From: Environment Canterbury
Sent: Sunday, 3 April 2022 4:46 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

Cora

Last name

Scott

Email address

Suburb

Hillsborough, 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 Cora Scott and I am a year 13 student. and I have lived in Christchurch my whole life. 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. As someone who regularly travels using buses, the sinking feeling of realizing you've run out of money on your metro card and will have to find an alternative means of transport, is all too familiar. 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. However, environmental concerns are not the only reason that free buses are important- it is also a matter of making Christchurch a more equitable city. In her book, Invisible women, Caroline Criado Perez explains that not only are women more likely to use public transport but they are also more likely to make multiple transfers as they are often responsible for additional chores such as dropping children at school and extracurriculars, buying groceries, and transporting elderly relatives. For this reason, women are disproportionately penalized by bus fares. Of course, fares are not the only problem women face with public transport. To truly make it accessible ECAN would need to address concerns about safety and the fact that currently, bus routes don't cater to the more complicated transport patterns that women have (which means their trips take significantly longer), but removing fares, (even if only for women fitting those groups), is a positive start.

Any other comments on bus fares?

Removing fares is wonderful but many also avoid public transport because they find it confusing to understand how the busses work and because busses take so much longer than other means of transport (even than biking sometimes), so these issues also need to be addressed.

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?

Planting fire retardant plants on the port hills, because fires are a big concern in the summer, especially for those of us who live close to the port hills. Other initiatives to get people out of their cars, broadening our public transport system to include things other than busses.

Where did you hear about the consultation?

Other (please specify) - School Strike for Climate
