

**From:** Environment Canterbury  
**Sent:** Sunday, 3 April 2022 5:39 pm  
**To:** Have your Say  
**Subject:** Submission on draft Annual Plan 2022/23

dave56 just submitted 'Draft Annual Plan 2022/23 submission' with the responses below.

**First name**

Dave

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**Last name**

Evans

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**Email address**

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**Suburb**

Waltham, Christchurch

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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?**

65+ years old

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

Yes

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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.**

The climate crisis demands that we reduce our carbon emissions and transport accounts for a substantial proportion of emissions by the people of Christchurch. To do this we need to get people to reduce their use of cars and to travel by shared transport instead. However, since the beginning of the Covid pandemic public transport patronage is down by 30%. Therefore we need to find a way to incentivise and encourage people to use public transport. If we get young people to use buses, instead of having their parents drive them to school, we can engender the habit of using public transport. Fare-free travel will do this as well as save the family money – especially as petrol prices are rising. As more people begin to use the bus service the increased economies of scale will enable improvements to the standard of service (frequency, routes, hours covered) and thereby enable/encourage more people to use the buses.

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**Any other comments on bus fares?**

Ultimately I would like to see this extended to all age groups. Fare-free status could lead to many more people using the buses provided it is introduced at the same time as the service is extended, especially the hours of service so that people starting early or working late are able to use the buses to get to and from work. I'd also like to see the linking of Metro cards for the members of a family so that a family maximum can be applied. Currently it can be very expensive for a family to travel by bus, which leads them to drive instead. Prior to the earthquakes the CCC provided a free central city loop service and this is sorely missed by many people who visit the city. An alternative to restoring this service would be to make bus travel within the four avenues free. Naturally this would require tagging on and off buses, which would be a major change, but which could ultimately lead to much more adaptable fare structures than the current zone structure. I often hear people complain that the buses are too expensive – and they certainly appear that way if you are only travelling a short distance. If everyone tagged on and off then the fare could more easily be adapted to the distance travelled. I would also like to see the on-demand service that is being trialled in Timaru considered for Christchurch as well. Perhaps at nights and in the weekends - times when the current buses are not heavily used. This could

be a way of achieving better utilisation of buses and reducing the waiting times, especially where people have to utilise multiple routes in order to reach their destinations.

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

Yes

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**How else might we pay for our share of this work?**

Some of the funds raised by the proposed climate levy could be used. Provided that the bulk of the levy funds are used for climate change mitigation it is reasonable to use a proportion for adaptation. If we don't slow and reverse climate change the escalation of severe weather events will eventually overwhelm our ability to fund repair and adaptation. Therefore, mitigation must be the highest priority.

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**How do you think recovery from flooding of this scale – events that impact state highways, bridges, rail and power for example – should be funded in the future?**

Government funds should be used for fixing national infrastructure: state highways, rail and the national power transmission grid.

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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?**

I would like to see projects that lead to reduced emissions, i.e. climate change mitigation. The climate crisis is developing ever more quickly through more frequent severe rainfall events, higher temperatures and droughts. These problems will keep getting worse until well after we have begun reducing emissions, so we need to stop just talking about it and start doing this as soon as possible. We need to demonstrate to the government that the people of Canterbury are serious about tackling climate change and that we need them to get serious too. Transport emissions are significant in Canterbury and projects, such as the fare-free trial, are worthy of funding from a climate levy. Agricultural emissions (particularly methane) are also very high in Canterbury and the best way of addressing this is through a reduction in cow numbers. This will also help to reduce the infiltration of nitrates into Canterbury ground water and the impacts this has on human health. I would like to see money spent on helping



farmers transition away from reliance on artificial fertilisers, with the goal of stopping all use of artificial fertilisers in Canterbury. A proportion of the funds raised through a climate levy should also be spent on climate change adaptation, but mitigation should always be the highest priority.

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

Broadly speaking the wealthiest people have benefited the most from the exploitation of fossil fuels and should contribute the most towards the response to climate change. Poorer people are already struggling with the cost of living and don't deserve to be saddled with the additional burden of paying the costs of something they have not benefited so much from. So I'd like the funding burden biased towards the wealthier sectors of society.

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

Dealing with the ecological/biodiversity crisis is as urgent as the climate crisis, so I would like to see ECan increase its support for Te Mana o te Taiao through initiatives such as Me Uru Rakau. Respect for Te Mana o te Wai is especially relevant in Canterbury given the excessive exploitation of our groundwater resources, which are susceptible to pollution that needs many decades to recover from.

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

Meeting or event  
Print ad or billboard  
Word of mouth  
Email

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