

From: Environment Canterbury
Sent: Sunday, 3 April 2022 11:56 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

MarySpreydon

Last name

O'Connor

Email address

Suburb

Spreydon, Christchurch

Phone number

Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?

No, I'm submitting as an individual

Which age category are you in?

65+ 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 3: Tertiary student concession

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

The use of the buses is not all about the cost of fares. The bus system can be very frustrating, especially when there is a diversion or there is a reduced service from lack of staff. When the works were being carried out on Brougham Street for weeks, there was inadequate notice on bus stops that were not being used (just a scrappy piece of A4 paper in very small print with a few lines drawn where the bus was re-routed but you couldn't read the street names). There was inadequate signage that the bus stop was not in use - suggest a bright yellow cover with "Bus Stop not in use" written on it covering the "Bus Stop" sign. There was a temporary bus stop on Bletsoe Ave but some distance from the closed stops. Both the 60 and 120 buses were going down Bletsoe but when I enquired I was informed the temporary stop was only for the 120! But nothing on the temporary stop to say that it was only for the 120 and fortunately the drivers for both routes stopped there. These diversion routes went down Antigua St which has bus stops but no mention whether the 60 would stop at these. Particularly when buses are on diversion for weeks an A3 notice attached to the back of bus shelters indicating where the bus is now travelling would be more helpful. I informed a few people waiting at a closed stop that the bus would not be stopping there, but about 300m away. When there was a reduced service due to unavailable drivers, I looked online for the timetable, but it was the usual timetable! Consequently, I went to the bus stop in time for a bus that was not operating! It is instances like the above that put people off using the buses. If you improve the bus provision, like improving above, then bus patronage will improve. But missing a bus because there is not adequate info that the bus is on diversion, or the bus is not coming at the timetable time (online or printed at the stop - a general notice is not sufficient) is enough to put people off using the bus, particularly if it has meant they have missed an appointment. Definitely agree with students travelling at child fares as they do not receive an income when studying - just a repayable loan. (Option 3). I do not agree with increasing the rates for the other options. The welcome introduction of electric buses surely improves emissions more - couldn't find any mention of this.

Any other comments on bus fares?

I consider the present zone system to be very reasonable. It is reasonable that passengers travelling further pay more. Will the Bee Card be introduced to Canterbury buses, as used in other areas of NZ, so that swiping on and off will automatically adjust the different fares? We need more information as to

what is the best online option to track a bus in real-time. I'm not sure if Ecan has their own system or if they depend on third party providers. Would like some clarity on this. There seemed to be a machine at some bus stops where you pressed a button and it lit up the time to the next bus, but these don't seem to work anymore. Info at bus stops for how to know when the next bus is coming online would be helpful too. More info, like maps or bus line info with times to various destinations on the route at bus stops would be helpful too. In another city there was a back window on buses so you could look behind the bus down a street to see if your connecting bus was coming - miss this option in Christchurch when connecting to another bus. Some people find crossing Brougham Street on foot unpleasant. Particularly if Waka Kotare introduce another lane it would be good if it could be free to travel from the last stop on one side of Brougham Street to the first one on the other side.

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

Don't know

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

I do not have sufficient knowledge of this to comment

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

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

Would like to see more action taken on invasive weeds before they become more of a problem. I have seen patches of Himalayan Balsam in Canterbury, where there appears to have been no attempt to remove it before seeding. This is just one example - I read about another plant spreading in the Port Hills. It would be helpful if with the rates notices we were informed of plants to look out for and a way of notifying authorities to dispose of. Happy for increase in rates to pay for control in public places and subsidized in private land. But savings could be made by making it easy for members of the public to

report sightings. With climate change different plants will thrive. Similarly for animal pest control - ways for public to notify, although of course more difficult as animals move!

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

If you have a submission close date, make the time 23:59 on that day - not 5pm. And on a Sunday staff are unlikely to be looking for the submissions at 5pm. Hopefully, this is accepted after 5pm but before the end of 3 April! Hopefully I receive an email acknowledgement and a copy of my submission. I was not aware that other files / photos could be added to the submission

Where did you hear about the consultation?

Other (please specify) - Booklet in the library (Christchurch South)
