

From: Environment Canterbury
Sent: Saturday, 2 April 2022 6:03 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

Roman

Last name

Shmakov

Email address

Suburb

Ilam, Christchurch

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?

Generation Zero

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.

Please refer to the attached submission document.

Any other comments on bus fares?

Please refer to the attached submission document.

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

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

Please refer to the attached submission document.

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

Please refer to the attached submission document.

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

Free fares should be extended to support people of total mobility card holders.

Upload any supporting documents (if applicable)

[h
a
4](#) Attachment appended
to end of submission

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3a2ea/original/1648875717/b8b440fe8b00ae9e35d
'1648875717](#)

Where did you hear about the consultation?

Other (please specify) - Made aware of this consultation in a dream



Generation Zero

The climate crisis increasingly impacts our local communities. Efforts such as fares free public transport and a climate change response levy are excellent efforts towards climate mitigation and climate adaptation.

To the Councillors,

- Generation Zero Ōtautahi **strongly supports option 1** as the best option for decarbonisation, shifting away our reliance on fossil fuels and making Christchurch a more fair and equitable city. There is little time to waste in decarbonising our transport sector, and fares free for mobility impaired people, low income communities, students and under-25's is an excellent proposition for reducing the inequities in our city. But we are **disappointed** that Environment Canterbury has **NOT planned to extend free fares to support people for total mobility card holders**.
- **De-carbonisation and shifting away from reliance on fossil fuels:** Transport is Canterbury's biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions. With fare-free public transport, we can have a suitable alternative to private vehicles that can compete on cost and convenience, especially as private vehicles who rely on fossil fuels are at the mercy of oil prices, especially in an unstable and turbulent time in the world like right now. Electric vehicles are still not affordable for many people, and are a maladaptive solution to climate change as they keep us car-dependent.

By shifting modes of transport from cars to buses (especially given these fleets are becoming increasingly electric), we can reduce our emissions, and reduce traffic on our road - which has many indirect effects such as making it more accessible for cyclists and pedestrians, while also reducing the money spent on road maintenance due to wear and tear from traffic.

- **Making Christchurch a more fair and equitable city:** The targeted nature of the fare-free travel option means those more likely to have low income are able to access public transport to get to work, school, access services such as healthcare and see family and friends. With fares-free travel, the impact of travel costs on low income users and families can be reduced.

The increased accessibility of public transport to such a large group of people can bring many wider society benefits. Being able to travel without worrying about the cost of transport can help with mental health, and using public transport leads to healthier outcomes for users.

- **There are wider benefits to increasing public transport use.** Taking public transport improves public health by inducing active transport like walking to and from a bus stop, reducing congestion, reducing air pollution and decreasing car-dependency. When a family's only option is to use a private vehicle, it makes them car dependent which has knock on effects for land-use development and urban sprawl. If our cities continue to be car dependent, we will likely see more sprawling suburbs with detrimental effects on climate and equity for decades to come. By creating an attractive public transport system with targeted fares free, we are enabling people to have **alternative transport options** to taking the car. With greater patronage through fares free, there is greater likelihood of higher numbers of people using the bus and bus services with increased frequency. High frequency services have been shown to aid higher density transit oriented developments. Environment Canterbury must consider **wider benefits** to targeted fares free such as **encouraging transit oriented developments**.
- **But we need to do more.** We call on Environment Canterbury to extend free fares for the support people of total mobility card holders. It is important to allow as many total mobility card holders as possible to take advantage of the freedom and benefits from fares free by allowing their support people to take the bus for free.
- We would also like to see option 2 alongside option 1 to be implemented for people who do not qualify for free fare rides. We can maximise the benefits of

free fares with cheap flat fares. Flat fares would also encourage more long distance commuters from surrounding satellite towns to take the bus, especially the express services, into Christchurch. We need to make buses a more competitive option than taking a car.

- Generation Zero is **strongly in support of the levy** to fund action in response to climate change. The fund created from the levy will allow Environment Canterbury to support a variety of projects and initiatives. There is an abundance of work that is needed to be done to become a climate adaptive and resilient region. We do not have a preference on how the fund is collected or used, but it is important that the fund covers both **recovering from future climate events** (such as coastal flooding coupled with sea level rise) and **preventative measures to make our region climate adaptive**.

Ngā mihi nui,

Generation Zero

About Generation Zero

Generation Zero is a nationwide, volunteer, youth-led organisation formed in 2011 to progress New Zealand toward a zero carbon future. www.generationzero.org.nz

For more information contact Roman Shmakov