

**From:** Environment Canterbury  
**Sent:** Saturday, 2 April 2022 2:31 pm  
**To:** Have your Say  
**Subject:** Submission on draft Annual Plan 2022/23

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

**First name**

Ben

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**Last name**

Jassin

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**Email address**

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**Suburb**

Cashmere, Christchurch

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**Phone number**

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**Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?**

Yes, I'm submitting on behalf of an organisation

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**Which organisation are you submitting on behalf of?**

**Which age category are you in?**

25-39 years old

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

No

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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 active or public transport instead. ECan's modelling indicates that Option 1 will give us the greatest uptake of PT ridership and the highest reduction in carbon emissions. This option also is the most equitable as it provides free fares to the groups that need them most. If we get young people to use buses, instead of having their parents drive them to school, we can start the habit of using public transport.

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**Any other comments on bus fares?**

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. SOC would 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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**Which option for distribution of rates in Ashburton River rating district do you support?**

I don't have a preference

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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?**

• Mass Rapid Transit • PT service increase • Significant reallocation of road space to active modes • Plant forests and restore biodiversity • Support for farmers making the transition away from intensive agriculture • Climate change adaptation, provided mitigation is always the highest priority

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

Where the funding comes from rates or taxation that financial burden should be biased towards the wealthiest as they typically have the highest emissions.

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

Thank for the opportunity to comment. SOC are strongly in favour of all the options you suggest. We would like to emphasise that planting forests and restoring biodiversity sit well within a nature -based

solutions framework which we consider to be a priority option to consider in all situations as nature - based solutions generally offer many layers of benefit. For example forest restoration can impact a number of things including carbon sequestration, biodiversity, cooling, rainfall, human well-being.

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

Social media (Facebook, Instagram)

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