

23 February 2024

Environment Canterbury Regional Council

via: Canterbury RLTP online submission portal

Dear Sir/Madam

Otago Regional Council's Submission on the Draft Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan 2024 - 2034

1. The Otago Regional Council (ORC) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Draft Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) 2024-2034. We regard RLTPs as strategically significant given their primary function is to deliver the diverse needs and aspirations of our South Island communities.
2. Due to our role as members of the South Island Regional Transport Committee, the ORC wishes to recognise and support the Otago and Southland Regional Transport Committee Chairs submission on the draft Canterbury RLTP.
3. Additionally, ORC also wishes to recognise and extend its support for the Canterbury Regional Transport Committee's (the Committee) prioritised transport objectives in the draft Canterbury RLTP.
4. We appreciate the visions and targets of the proposed plan and the emphasis placed on resilient transport connections to Otago, particularly the importance placed on enhancing the utilisation of rail for freight transportation.
5. We anticipate that this strategic focus will significantly contribute to the reduction of congestion on state highways and, concurrently, to a substantial decrease in carbon emissions. These objectives resonate with the Otago Southland combined RLTP and underline our respective Committees' and Councils' shared commitment to sustainable transport solutions.
6. Recognizing the importance of State Highway 1 (SH1) as the primary route linking Canterbury and Otago, the ORC fully supports the SH1 improvement projects outlined. The Ashburton-Tinwald Connectivity (Second Ashburton Urban Bridge) project is noteworthy for providing an alternative route during adverse weather conditions.

7. We also support the other proposed SH1 improvement projects such as the Conway River Bridge renewal, Upper Ōrari Bridge two-laning, Christchurch to Ashburton Corridor Improvements, and the Rangitata Bridge Project. These initiatives can enhance inter-regional network resilience, particularly during extreme weather conditions.
8. Again, we express our sincere gratitude for affording us the opportunity to support these crucial initiatives through our submission. We look forward to opportunities for ongoing collaboration between our respective Regional Transport Committees, and Councils, for advancing the shared objectives outlined in the Draft Canterbury RLTP.

Yours sincerely

Gretchen Robertson
Chairperson