



Submission from the Christchurch Coastal Pathway group on the three year plan

BACKGROUND

CCPG is seeking the design and construction of a 6.5km Coastal Pathway from Ferrymead to Sumner, and ultimately onwards into Christchurch City as a major earthquake recovery project for this part of the Eastern Suburbs.

SUBMISSION

The Christchurch Coastal Pathway Group (CCPG) commends this Council's action in enabling and supporting the creation of a concept plan for a Christchurch Coastal Pathway.

However, despite the Christchurch Coastal Pathway being nominated by the Hagley Ferrymead Board as its top priority project, no provision for the project has yet been made in the Three Year Plan. \$6.7M has been included for the Sumner to City cycleway route but this excludes the Pathway under the Council's new Cycleway budget. We understand the reason for this omission is because the Concept plan has not yet been adopted by Council.

City-wide consultation on the concept plan has now been completed. Over 400 submissions were received with 85% in support. The staff report will be presented to the Hagley Ferrymead Community Board and then Council in early June.

CCPG has always approached this project as a partnership, and has made a commitment to raise a significant sum of money for the pathway, in addition to any Council funding. CCPG is now currently seeking such funding to ensure that creation of the pathway can happen at the same time as other earthquake reconstruction along its route.

Two things are urgently needed as necessary steps to enable this to happen. The first is Council approval of the Concept plan, followed by the second, a commitment to partial funding of the pathway construction within this three year plan.

Unfortunately, CCPG's worst fears have been realised in that SCIRT has commenced work on earthquake repairs to the causeway before the pathway works can be integrated into the design. A 4 metre provision has been made for the pathway but no provision has been made to include detailed planning and construction for this section of the pathway in concert with the roadway rebuild.

A disjunction in timing will cause unnecessary additional cost and further inconvenience to commuters. Traffic is currently diverted from the causeway to McCormacks Bay Road for six months for the SCIRT repairs. The most appropriate time to construct this section of the pathway is within this six month period window.

Construction of the pathway is critical to the wellbeing of our community. The Sumner to Ferrymead area is, as elected members are aware, one of the worst quake affected residential areas of the city, and was in close proximity to the epicentres of those quakes.

The Christchurch Coastal Pathway is a community driven project which arose from a collective recognition that this is the one project that will enable our three communities to not only to recover but to flourish once again. The commercial centres of Redcliffs, and particularly of Sumner desperately need people to return in numbers. We believe only the pathway can effectively halt the further decline of these areas, and rejuvenate them with new business opportunities.

But this is not the only reason we believe Council should fund this project. This project will be a timeless treasure and a huge asset for our city. It has been called a 'City Changer' as well as 'free, fun and fantastic'. This slogan recognises that this pathway will be available for all to enjoy regardless of age, health or income. Christchurch citizens are desperate for community places now to meet, walk, talk, take the family or visitors, and what a brilliant way and place to do it. Christchurch simply cannot afford to wait another three years for this project to begin.

In recognition of the above, CCPG respectfully requests that the Council includes a provisional sum of \$9M in the three year plan to commence the pathway. The funds could be staggered in parcels of 3M over the three year life of the plan. The figure of \$9M is approximately half of the indicative budget of the pathway. It is a figure which will significantly encourage other funders, and encourage our members to work hard to match. CCPG has as an aspirational goal to establish the pathway over the next three to five years.

FORMAL REQUEST

1. That the Council urgently adopt the Christchurch Coastal Pathway Draft Concept Plan and Feasibility Report to enable the building of the pathway to proceed in conjunction with SCIRT earthquake repairs along the route.
2. That in recognition of the importance of the project to the recovery of the Sumner to Ferrymead area, \$9 M be included in the Three Year Plan for the Christchurch Coastal pathway, to be expended over the three year life of the plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard

SUBMITTED BY: Linda Rutland on behalf of the **Christchurch Coastal Pathway Group**