

**THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF
SUBMISSIONS ON THE
CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL
2018 LONG TERM PLAN**

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Thematic Analysis of the 2018 Long Term Plan Submissions

1. Submissions Received and Analysed

A thematic analysis of the 2018 Long Term Plan (LTP) was undertaken to identify what matters submitters commented on, the reasons for doing so, and the overall themes in their submissions. It does not seek to evaluate submissions or make recommendations on the LTP, although areas for further public engagement could well be inferred from this report.

The number of submissions received (1503) were very similar to those received for last year's Annual Plan, (Table One). This is about half the approximately 3000 received for the LTP 2015, which was the first substantive LTP following the 2010-11 earthquakes, generating strong community comment. For a demographic breakdown of submissions received, see Appendix One.

Type	2015 LTP		2016 LTP/AP		2017 AP		2018 LTP	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Organisation	240	8	107	25	139	9	406	23
Individual	2757	92	320	75	1352	91	1097	77
Total	2997	100	427	100	1491	100	1503	100

Table One: Organisation and Individual Submissions, 2015 to 2018 Plans

Of the submissions that were identifiable by location (45%), the Central-Heathcote-Linwood Community Board had the highest representation (195 submissions, Figure One).

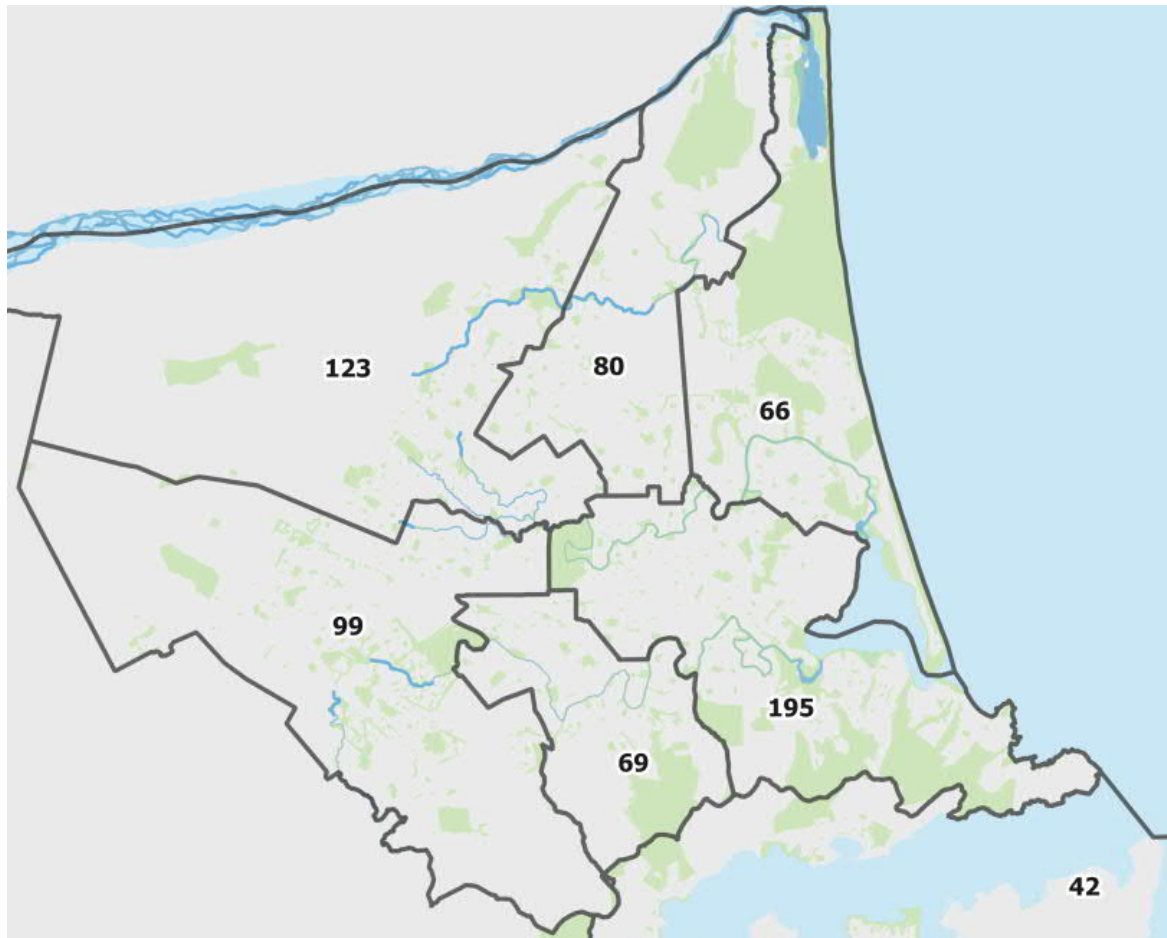


Figure One: Submission Origin by Community Board Area

2. Summary of Submission Themes

Reading across the submission topics there were three themes or 'threats' to wellbeing that became apparent, along with a range of sub-themes underlying them. By order, these three thematic threats in nature were environmental (and related to three of Council's six strategic priorities), social (two strategic priorities), and economic (one strategic priority). By implication the wellbeing threats identified give a good approximation of how submitters rated or ranked the Council's strategic priorities.

Wellbeing Threat One: Climate Change

In order, the leading main wellbeing threat was climate change, which was also referenced in terms of resilience and environmental sustainability. Climate change related matters such as sea level rise were raised when infrastructure priorities (either below or above the ground, or both) were discussed, whether they were below or above the ground.

A resilience lens was noted as needing to be applied to some or all infrastructure matters. The Infrastructure Strategy was seen as not adequately mentioning, if at all, the subject of climate change. Thinking short term versus long term was emphasised, as was needing to consider when to repair infrastructure and when to retreat from areas, especially in eastern areas of Christchurch.

Wellbeing Threat Two: Sense of Identity

The second key wellbeing threat was to do with Christchurch's sense of identity. This manifested itself when submitters were talking about the importance and nature of what it meant to live in Christchurch. This included the chlorination of the water supply (i.e. our clean drinking water), having adequate sports stadia to watch sporting and leisure events, repairing the Christchurch Cathedral, the historically strong provision of social housing, and the Council generally acting in the public interest for all its residents. These matters were of quite a personal nature to submitters, with losing, or the potential to lose them, meaning a sense of loss to them.

Wellbeing Threat Three: Economic Anxiety

The third threat to wellbeing related to economic anxiety over the recovery and future of Christchurch. Topics mentioned or stressed were the urgency to progress the Anchor Projects. The Multi-Use Arena was the main example given of the pressing need to be able to host sporting and entertainment events so as to generate economic activity. Dunedin was often cited as garnering the sporting and events market at Christchurch's expense, with the recent Ed Sheeran concerts given as examples. Submitters on these topics had a real sense of 'fear of missing out'.

Sub-Theme Underlying the Wellbeing Threats: Public Spending and the Public Good

A sub-theme of public spending and the public good and who benefits ran through submissions including the wellbeing threats. Matters of who pays and who benefits (e.g. targeted rates), spending public funds for a perceived private benefit (e.g. Heritage grant funding), the public subsidising the private sector (e.g. the MUA), secular spending on religious organisations (e.g. the Christchurch Cathedral), and equity issues (e.g. the utility benefit versus the regressive nature of a fuel tax).

3. Analysis of Submissions by Main Topic Areas

The submissions were coded into topic areas for analysis and identification of overall themes.

Table Two shows that there were fifteen main topics commented on that had a minimum of 100 comments, with Table Three giving the next fifteen topics commented upon where there were less than 100 comments made.

Both tables show comments that were clearly in support or in opposition, and where alternative suggestions were made. Most of the alternative comments related to other ways of prioritising or spending in the topic area rather than opposing it (especially the 'three waters', transport, and road repairs. Some alternative suggestions were, however, mainly to do with reducing spending in the topic area, e.g. the rates proposal, and the funding proposal for ChchNZ.

Rank	Topic	Support	Oppose	Alternatives	Total
1	Rates Proposal	251	172	126	549
2	Funding Proposal (ChchNZ)	198	189	142	529
3	Stormwater	220	42	187	449
4	Community Facilities	161	57	213	431
5	Major Cycleways	282	124	18	424
6	Transport Priorities	106	53	264	423
7	Central City Landmark Grant Fund	216	176	22	414
8	Fuel Tax	187	195	23	405
9	Drinking Water	196	46	133	375
10	Big Question: Balance & Priorities	70	60	234	364
11	Alternative Funding Sources	198	38	18	254
12	Public Transport	147	8	72	227
13	Wastewater	103	33	87	223
14	Road Repairs	21	36	154	211
15	Multi-Use Arena	113	62	5	180

Table Two: Main Submission Comments by Topic (minimum = 100)

Rank	Topic	Support	Oppose	Alternatives	Total
1	Parks	28	9	58	95
2	Funding Non-CCC Facilities	31	38	21	90
3	Christchurch Cathedral	12	70	6	88
4	Metro Sports Facility	31	17	13	61
5	Community Board Input	55	6	-	61
6	Harewood/Breens/Gardiners	58	-	-	58
7	Social Housing rebuild	45	3	-	48
8	Coastal Pathway completion	41	-	-	41
9	Accessible City	27	6	8	41
10	No Asset sales	20	20	-	40
11	Street Lighting proposal	27	3	5	35
12	Styx River Catchment Plan	30	-	-	30
13	East Chch/Brighton/South Shore	30	-	-	30
14	EnviroSchools funding	20	-	-	20
15	Nicholls Street repairs	20	-	-	20

Table Three: Other Submission Comments by Topic (under 100)

4. Big Question: Balance and Priorities

The 'Big Question' asked if the right balance between earthquake recovery, service provision and planning for growth had been achieved, i.e. priorities in relation to rates affordability.

Topic	Support	Oppose	Alternatives	Total
Big Question: Balance & Priorities	70	60	234	364

Those supporting the LTP balance and priorities noted the infrastructure proposals. Those against often felt that infrastructure, whether above or below the ground, needed even more priority than facilities or events from a 'needs' versus 'wants' perspective. Eastern Christchurch was at times mentioned in this regard. Some noted community infrastructure such as social housing.

Many alternatives were given, mostly reprioritising within current budgets. These included focusing on infrastructure (in particular), prioritising community facilities, and completing the major projects. Core or essential facilities before building new ones, and focusing on repairs and maintenance before new capital expenditure were other alternatives given.

Submission Snapshots (note: the number in brackets refers to the Submitter ID number)

No rates increase. Regenerate the East. Fix and renew roads and water pipes [118].

From the beginning roads, sewer systems and water were the things to prioritise [141].

I do worry for a City that once had great social housing that we are now very low [148].

What the City needs is major projects delivered to encourage tourism to Christchurch and to promote investment in the City [244].

Council needs to develop a strategy about which areas of our City to defend from climate change and where to retreat from [470].

We need to prioritise the identity of our City as we develop after the earthquakes, and underlying infrastructure that will pay off in the long term [853].

5. Rates Proposal

The draft LTP proposed to hold the average rate increase at 5.5 per cent for 2018/19.

Topic	Support	Oppose	Alternatives	Total
Rates Proposal	251	172	126	549

Support for the proposed rates rise outnumbered those clearly against it. Reasons given were to do with the infrastructure focus (either that which was essential three waters related and/or roading and transport related), and completing local facilities and/or major projects. Opposition to the rates increase centred on not funding nice to have projects, and the equity burden on low income households.

Alternatives given within the proposed rates rise were to prioritise horizontal infrastructure to ensure it is repaired, fund the community rather than the commercial or religious sectors, or to reduce rates and save money by deferring or not spending on non-essentials.

Submission Snapshots

I think getting the horizontal infrastructure prioritised is exactly the right thing to do, but slow down other things so rates aren't increased again [111].

Some sectors of the community will have problems affording it but I agree in principal [825].

As a superannuitant I'm happy to pay rates increases for services that provide a quality, caring lifestyle for all of us. I'm not happy paying for large projects likely to make a loss [906].

I am against the proposal, it is the low income people bearing the burden of this [903].

6. Infrastructure – The Three Waters

Topic	Support	Oppose	Alternatives	Total
Stormwater	220	42	187	449
Drinking Water	196	46	133	375
Wasterwater	103	33	87	223

High levels of support were generally given for the LTP proposals for each of the three waters which were seen as essential infrastructure priorities by those submitters. Some were ranked in various priority orders, while others considered them to be equally important.

Clean drinking water free from chlorination was strongly emphasised, with opposing and alternative comments relating to prioritising it even higher.

Climate change was frequently mentioned in stormwater comments, with alternative suggestions being made about particular locations to address (e.g. Styx River, Southshore, Heathcote/Opawaho, and Banks Peninsula), and on methods to address flooding. Examples given were to reduce dredging (seen as pointless) and focus on longer term solutions.

Wastewater proposal criticisms centred on the unacceptability of wastewater entering waterways. Suggestions were made to prioritise it by diverting above ground infrastructure spending.

Submission Snapshots

Clean drinking water should be a priority for the CCC to deliver to its residents [993]

Fixing the drinking water supply has to be top priority, these are core services [1112].

Protecting infrastructure from natural hazards from climate change needs to be prioritised [1186].

As long as our wastewater infrastructure is stable enough then prioritise flood water [1048].

I am disgusted with the quality of our rivers around Christchurch – Council must improve this [42].

It is culturally offensive to local iwi and Pakeha to pollute our rivers and streams with sewerage [741]

Infrastructure like drinking water, waste water, stormwater and flood protection are priority work and core Council responsibility. You are failing [84].

The root causes are not being addressed by dredging – dredging destroys the river ecology [853].

7. Transport Related Priorities

Topic	Support	Oppose	Alternatives	Total
Major Cycleways	282	124	18	424
Transport Priorities	106	53	264	423
Public Transport	147	8	72	227
Road Repairs	21	36	154	211
Community Board Input	55	6	-	61
Accessible City	27	6	8	41
Street Lighting	27	3	5	35

Support outweighed opposition for transport related topics, with prominent examples being to complete the major cycleways (including the Coastal Pathway which was in effect seen as one).

Opposing comments included prioritising road repairs ahead of other horizontal infrastructure and other types of spending such as events, and reducing the spend on major cycleways, and focusing on roads and footpaths, along with the safety of them.

Alternative suggestions for transport priorities and road repairs mostly related to a range of suggestions to take heed of. These included intersections such as Harewood/Breens/Gardiners, and street repairs that have been overlooked such as Nicholls Street.

For those commenting on the role of the Community Boards in prioritising transport projects, most were in favour of Boards having a high level of input but not necessarily to make the final decisions.

Modest levels of support were noted for the Accessible City and the Lighting proposals.

Submission Snapshots

There are still damaged roads not yet repaired – their maintenance and repair needs priority [811].

Continue to promote public transport and cycling by providing better facilities [73].

Yes your example is correct – Harewood, Breens, Gardiners need traffic lights now [227].

Your priorities should be roads, wastewater and infrastructure, stick to the basics [354].

Cycleways should not be a priority. Too much has been expended and they are underutilised [29].

Council doesn't have the funds to build a transport network based on individual use vehicles [688].

Nicholls St is a disgrace to the community and Council and should be priority in updating [1059].

The condition of rural roads on Banks Peninsula is getting to the stage where some are becoming dangerous if not unusable [948].

In relation to traffic concerns, priorities informed by Community Boards makes sense [126].

I support spending on initiatives to make Christchurch an Accessible City [957].

8. Major Facilities and Community Facilities

Topic	Support	Oppose	Alternatives	Total
Community Facilities	161	57	213	431
Multi-Use Arena	113	62	5	180
Metro Sports Facility	31	17	13	61
Parks	28	9	58	95

A broad range of items were coded under community facilities. Alternative suggestions were also supportive on what could be focused on, e.g. a multi-cultural centre, replacing the Shirley Community Centre, and generally supporting community facilities ahead of major facilities.

Those commenting on the Multi-Use Arena saw it as a vital and necessary capital expenditure to return sporting and entertainment events to the City, whereas those who were opposed thought there were other environmental and/or social priorities. Some sought a renegotiation of the Cost Sharing Agreement.

Parks were well supported by those commenting on them, with supporting rather than opposing alternative suggestions being made. These included a wetland eco-sanctuary, support for the Botanic gardens, controlling pests, and more native plantings.

Submission Snapshots

Stadium and public pools need prioritising. We need to attract big events or we will fade away [21].

We are gold-plating so many of the replacement facilities. Basics first! [154].

Sports stadium – a necessary spend, may take time, good for having events for the economy [1130].

I think community facilities (libraries, leisure centres, and social housing) are really important [670].

I would deprioritise stadiums and prioritise facilities that promote local community [996].

The lack of a MSF type facility is limiting the growth of community sport in Canterbury [1017].

Social housing, climate adaptation and mitigation, and biodiversity are more important [941].

MUA should be prioritised. The City would make big money if big concerts were held here [947].

The build it and they will come theory to justify large facilities is not backed up by research [957].

Please give priority to caring for our glorious Botanic Gardens, our most precious taonga [1099].

We support work to maintain our parks and riverbanks which are at risk from climate change [1186].

9. Funding Proposal

Topic	Support	Oppose	Alternatives	Total
Funding Proposal (ChchNZ)	198	189	142	529

The funding proposal for ChristchurchNZ was very evenly split for those supporting or opposing. Supporting reasons revolved around the events investment needed in the City for economic recovery and wellbeing, being competitive with other regions, and simply providing hope for Christchurch.

Opposing comments considered that infrastructure (any and/or all forms), community events, and local services were more important. Some felt that there was little public benefit at the expense of private gain from such funding.

A range of alternative ways to spend the funds were given, including leaving the funding of these services to commercial sponsors, prioritising local facilities and events, improved reporting and monitoring of ChchNZ, complete infrastructure so that events can take place, or that it was a too risky use of public funds.

Submission Snapshots

Major events are a massive drawcard for people looking to move to Chch or visiting [156].

I prefer to pay extra for more events and attractions. Infrastructure and water is absolute key but where is the fun? We need a City where people want to live in [536].

Not a good idea. Better [to] co-ordinate local events in order to provide a focus for visitors [146].

Disappointing to see that Council continues to treat economic development more favourably than social/community development [1038].

10. Funding Options and Sources

Topic	Support	Oppose	Alternatives	Total
Fuel Tax	187	195	23	405
Alternative Funding Sources	198	38	18	254
Funding Non-CCC Facilities	31	38	21	90

Submitter opinion was evenly split for those supporting or opposing the idea of a fuel tax. Those in favour saw it as a good funding option, with the strong proviso that it was spent on transport options such as the major cycleways and public transport. Those against considered it too inequitable, giving other options to fund transport instead (e.g. bonds, roading tolls).

Alternative funding sources were more strongly supported. Options to explore included a bed tax, roading tolls, and a water tax. Some suggested asset sales, whereas an approximately equal numbers were opposed to such ideas.

It was back to more even opinion for and against for funding non-Council facilities. Support was given if communities were going to be behind it. Opposition centred on wanting Council funding for Council facilities.

Submission Snapshots

Yes to fuel tax for alternative transport means – cycleways and public transport [983].

This is a regressive tax so needs to be coupled with improved PT, cycling, and walking [1088].

Yes please investigate anything you can to enable extra funding – charge for water bottling [1151].

Council should instead investigate a road tolling system would be a better way of raising funds [926].

A targeted rate is a good idea so long as the community wants the initiative [30].

No I don't agree with the targeted rate. We are all in this together [68].

11. Heritage Funding

Topic	Support	Oppose	Alternatives	Total
Central City Landmark Grant Fund	216	176	22	414
Christchurch Cathedral	12	70	6	88

Submissions ran at 55 percent for and 45 percent against for the proposed Central City Landmark Grant Fund. Those in support cited the historical and cultural importance of heritage, protecting and restoring heritage for community wellbeing and economic (tourism) reasons, and that private owners need help.

Those against the funding proposal felt that public funds should not subsidise private landowners, infrastructure and services should come first, and that Council heritage buildings should come first. Some alternatives were given on reducing the fund, or reclaiming grants when buildings were sold.

Comments received on funding for the Christchurch Cathedral were mostly negative, on the grounds that public money should not be going to churches. At best, it was felt that it should be voluntary.

Submission Snapshots

These grants have possibly been the key between 'restore or destroy' heritage buildings [1004].

Would rather see the funds used to preserve public buildings than creating private wealth [1152].

I support the restoration of our iconic Cathedral but have some concerns about how [983].

In a secular multicultural country contributions to religious organisations should be voluntary [1342].

12. Pro Forma Submissions

Four main pro forma style submissions were identified. Two (Multicultural Centre and Linwood Pool) were open ended comments, whereas those on the Edgeware Pool and New Brighton were mostly of a more standard pro forma with submissions made up the same or very similar formatted information.

It should be noted that most of these pro forma topics were also supported in the general submissions, especially prioritising recovery of Eastern Christchurch, and pools provision.

Multicultural Centre (125 submissions)

These submissions requested that a multicultural centre be established at Hagley College. Common reasons in support were that it would promote cultural diversity, be an affordable, accessible, supportive meeting place for all ethnic groups, and a place to hold cultural and recreational activities. Youth needs were often mentioned, and it was apparent that many of the submissions were written by young migrants or people new to Christchurch.

I would use it to celebrate and a place where I belong [573]

We need a place for women's meetings and exercise groups [616]

Edgeware Pool (60 submissions)

These submissions called on Council to financially support the building of a pool complex in Edgeware, usually citing the sum of a \$5m contribution. Submitters emphasised the community owned and operated nature of the proposal, which aims to replace the original Edgeware Pool.

It is a community facility, a gathering place, a safe place for people of all ages [1120]

The new pool will be a major asset to the Edgeware Village and St Albans Community [1383]

New Brighton (48 submissions)

The New Brighton pro forma submissions made a number of points and requests including developing the south side of the Pier, considering New Brighton for major events, a fuel tax that funded development in the East, clean drinking water, public transport, and dredging rivers.

Linwood Pool (29 submissions)

The Linwood Avenue pro formas were written by children from Linwood Avenue School. They talked about the pool in terms of a focal point and gathering place for learning to swim and general recreation. Some added in further points on providing improved library services and recreation facilities in Linwood.

I would like to spend time in the pool with friends and family and have some fun and to relax [823].

I suggest swimming lessons because there's so many people who need to learn how to swim [751].

Appendix One: Submissions by Demography and Submission Method

Most (73%) of submitters identified their age, with the 25-49 year age group being the largest grouping (30%, Table Four).

Age	Number	Percent
Under 18 Years	58	4
18-24 Years	62	4
25-49 Years	445	30
50-64 Years	319	21
65 Years and over	215	14
Not stated	404	27
Total	1503	100

Table Four: Age of Submitters

Where submitters stated their gender (82% of submissions), females outnumbered males by nearly 100 submissions (Table Five).

Gender	Number	Percent
Female	657	44
Male	564	38
Not Stated/Other	282	19
Total	1491	100

Table Five: Age of Submitters

Electronic methods (online and by email) made up 81% of submissions received (Table Six).

Submission Method	Number	Percent
Online	893	59
Email	332	22
Post	177	12
Counter	102	7
Total	1491	100

Table Six: Submissions by Method Made