

ECAN Submission

Kei te rangatira, tēnā koe,

This submission is being made by the Christchurch Youth Council (CYC) as a part of our kaupapa, which aims to advocate for and strengthen youth voices, especially in local decision making.

Please be aware that the content of this submission is based on the discussions we had internally with our membership. We are not representative of all of the young people in Christchurch. Young people in Christchurch may disagree with the statements made throughout this submission, we would expect and value this as no two people have the same voice or opinion.

The Christchurch Youth Council has decided that option one which would involve free fares for under 25s, students, Total Mobility and Community Services cardholders would benefit the youth in Canterbury. We believe this to be the best option because making the bus fares free for students under 25s, total mobility and community services with cardholders would make the fares accessible and would make the buses a more youth-friendly service. We believe this because Option one seems most equitable in terms of who needs for daily use/ as their main mode of transport due to no license or other variables that can be accessed freely and without limits, and it applies to Christchurch Youth Council best for the age bracket.

We believe this fits into the Christchurch Youth Action Plans in the following sectors:

1. **1.1 TRAFFIC AND ROADING**

- Traffic congestion in the city delaying buses in the city centre.
- More bus services are available within Christchurch to travel from suburb to suburb directly.

1. **1.2 PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

- Making the public bus service more reliable.
- Christchurch becoming better connected to Greater Christchurch.
- More evening transport available.
- Would make public transport affordable.

1. **1.3 BUSES**

- Removing the negative bussing stereotype.
- Christchurch Metro cards are easily accessible and available.

1. **1.5 OTHER**

- Young people are being heard in decision-making regarding transport and the bus interchange.

1. **4.2.2 URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

- The city being developed with an environmentally friendly approach.
- Cheaper buses also mean less driving and less pollution.

The Christchurch Youth Council would also like to mention that buses will continue to run regardless of price; so making them more accessible ensures that young people will use them.

Option 2:

- Option 2 | \$2 flat fare
Two-year trial of flat \$2 Metrocard fares for adults and \$1.20 for children and tertiary students across zones 1, 2 and 3.
The Diamond Harbour ferry service would also have a flat fare of \$4 for adults and \$2 for children.
- On the basis of option 2 could also be considered as a good incentive for the youth in Christchurch and a broader range of individuals, groups and age brackets. Option 2 may get more people on the bus which would benefit youth by supporting a sustainable future. However with option 2 if it's only cheap for children, adults may continue to drive.

Option 3

- Option 2 | Current fares with a tertiary student concession
Two-year trial of a concession for tertiary students. Tertiary students would pay the equivalent of a child fare when paying by Metrocard (eg \$1.50 for Zone 1).
- Option 3 is not considered sustainable by the Christchurch Youth Council.

The Christchurch Youth Council would like to thank the Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury for their attention to the unique interests of young people in the city and their relevance to the Ōtautahi Christchurch.

Ngā mihi nui,

The Christchurch Youth Council