

**Submission to Selwyn District Council Draft Annual Plan 2020-2021**  
**Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust**  
**May 22, 2020**

The Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust is charitable CCO of Christchurch City Council with a mandate to support sustainable management, conservation and recreation in the Banks Peninsula ward for the benefit of the present and future inhabitants of the peninsula and its visitors. The Trust was established in 2010 and over the 10 years of its existence, has become a well-respected and key community organization with a reputation for cost effective and solid achievement.

**Strategic Vision**

The Trust has a Strategic Vision to:

*Develop environmental guardians of the future through improved public walking and biking access, enhancing biodiversity, promoting knowledge and working in partnership with others who share our commitment to Banks Peninsula.*

*Ko te whakawhanake kaitiaki taiao nā te whakahōu ara hikoī, ara paihikara, te whakaniko rerenga rauropi, te whakamana mātauranga me te mahi tahi ki ngā tāngata e kaingākau kaha ana ki Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū hoki.*

The Trust aims to work in a holistic manner furthering four strategic pillars of Access, Biodiversity, Knowledge and Partnership to leave an enduring legacy.

**Relationship with Selwyn District**

With the growth in population in the Selwyn District, and the value that the Port Hills and Banks Peninsula provides to its residents, we are increasingly aware of the need to and benefits of including Selwyn District Council and access from the Selwyn side of Banks Peninsula into our vision. This has been particularly demonstrated during the Covid-19 lockdown period with so many people recreating in the Port Hills.

We see opportunity for the Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust (RDBPT) to assist the Selwyn Council with connecting its residents and visitors with Banks Peninsula through:

- Improved recreational connections from Selwyn to Banks Peninsula
- Supporting biodiversity initiatives – particularly the Pest Free initiative

We submit that such initiatives will assist the Selwyn District with Covid-19 recovery and sow a foundation for lower footprint lifestyles for the future, assisting with climate change mitigation and ecological recovery.

**Selwyn District Walking and Cycling Strategy**

The Trust has two Strategic Goals supporting this Strategy and relevant to this submission:

- A network of well managed walking and biking trails with long term secure public access that provide free walking and connect major communities
- Unformed Legal Roads are valued and effective as a delivery tool for walking and biking.

The Trust supported the Selwyn District Council draft Walking and Cycling strategy and Action Plan in our submission to the 2018 Long Term Plan. We note that the Action Plan now includes a future aspiration:

*that a “Port Hills Recreational Access and Use Strategy” could be developed. This would have to be across Council departments and also involve the Christchurch City Council to see how best to plan and provide a joined up network centring on that area from Kennedys Bush across to Tai Tapu and up to the Summit Rd.*

We urge Selwyn District Council to move forward on developing a strategy for the Port Hills. The Port Hills provide a very important environmental and recreation asset to both the City and Selwyn, and as shown during the lockdown – a key recreational resource that can be enjoyed by urban people with relatively little travel required. There is rapid population growth within the Tai Tapu, Lincoln and Rolleston areas and increased demand for recreation on the Port Hills. This can be provided by more local walking and cycling access to the Summit Road. From Kennedy’s Bush eastwards there are plentiful Port Hills walking and cycling tracks, but little equivalent within the Selwyn District. In our Long-Term Plan submission (attached) we set out some suggested routes using existing legal roads and two potential tracks to connect to the Port Hills. In addition, we have a proposal for an extension of a cycling route to link the Christchurch Quarryman’s Trail and the Motukarara to Little River Rail trail.

Both of these routes then provide recreational links enabling the people of Selwyn to continue on bike or foot to the Akaroa area.

### **Pest Free Banks Peninsula**

Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust has adopted the 2050 Ecological Vision for Banks Peninsula (including the Port Hills). This provides a vehicle for collaboration and over-arching biodiversity strategy

As a result the Trust was a foundation signatory to Pest Free Banks Peninsula / Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū, a collaborative programme to protect and enhance biodiversity on the Peninsula through the widespread eradication of animal pests, and have adopted the following as another of our core strategic goals:

- Pest Free Banks Peninsula is supported in its work towards Banks Peninsula being effectively free of pest animals

The Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust wholly supports the submission from Pest Free Banks Peninsula acknowledging Selwyn District Council’s (SDC) status as a foundation member of the PFBP partnership and requests the Council implements the following:

- *Budget provision of \$10,000 in the 2020/2021 Annual Plan and subsequent years to directly support the work of the Pest Free Banks Peninsula initiative within the Selwyn District, with particular reference to the Te Kāhaku Kahukura project.*
- *Continue to support the work of SDC staff and community groups in Selwyn and Banks Peninsula as we work towards the vision of predator free Banks Peninsula (including the Port Hills and Kaitorete).*
- *A commitment to SDC pest control policy decisions and operational work being in alignment with the Pest Free Banks Peninsula Programme’s over-arching strategy and work programme.*
- *A commitment to SDC biodiversity policy decisions and operational work being in alignment with the 2050 Ecological Vision for Banks Peninsula (including the Port Hills).*
- *Pest Free Banks Peninsula requests SDC note that it will be seeking in the next 3-yearly review of the Long Term Plan an increase in the total amount of funding available through the Selwyn Natural Environment Fund, and a commitment to annual funding to support the Pest Free Banks Peninsula programme and Te Kāhaku Kahukura project for that part of the Banks Peninsula within the Selwyn District.*

**We wish to be heard in support of our submission.**