

Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust
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Little River 7546

Christchurch City Council
53 Hereford Street
Christchurch

26 March 2023

Kia Ora

Submission on Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Community Board Plan 2023-2025

Thank you for the opportunity submit on the Draft 2023-2025 Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Community Board Plan. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the Community Board's vision and priorities for Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula.

We would request that in developing this Community Board Plan, you consider the influence this plan will have on future submissions made by the Community Board on behalf of its community, including submissions on Annual Plan and Long Term Plan funding proposals, and the additional weight which might be given by Council or other bodies to matters raised in those submissions when aligned with this Plan.

We generally support the priorities identified and the overall direction of the Plan.

The Board's focus on climate change and natural hazards as a high priority is supported, particularly including the use of ecological initiatives to mitigate these where possible. Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula presents many opportunities for native planting and ecological restoration. We encourage the Community Board to identify these opportunities, including opportunities to partner with others, and to support ecological restoration initiatives. These initiatives should focus on planting native trees rather than exotics such as pines. We are pleased to see the focus on biodiversity in the Plan, including funding support. We request that the Community Board actively support the continuation of the Council's Biodiversity Fund to remain at least at its current level or preferably be increased, and support any Targeted Rate for Biodiversity which may be proposed by the Regional Council. We also request that the Community Board supports the ongoing Council contribution to Pest Free Banks Peninsula.

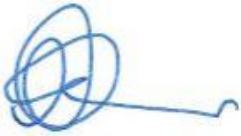
We are pleased to see the Board's active engagement with the Destination Management Plan currently being developed by ChristchurchNZ. It is important that this plan, both in its development and implementation, respects the unique character, landscape, environment and natural amenity of Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula. Outdoor recreation, including walking and cycling, is one of the Peninsula's significant attractions to local, regional, national and international visitors. These activities should be promoted in a way which is sustainable and respects the natural environment and the social licence of the community. The concept of regenerative tourism should be a guiding principle in the development and implementation of the Destination Management Plan. Developing and promoting outdoor recreation opportunities and a regenerative approach to tourism should both be given a high priority in the development and implementation of the Destination Management Plan, and we request that these be specifically referenced in this Community Board Plan.

We note the absence of any mention in the Community Board Plan of the Head to Head Walkway. This significant project, when fully developed, will deliver a unique and easily accessed outdoor recreation experience for local residents and for visitors, and will give rise to social, environmental and economic benefits.

Ensuring continued funding for this project, expediting early delivery, and exploring and taking opportunities for partnership should all be high priorities for the Community Board. We acknowledge and welcome the Council's unanimous support for this project in their recent Draft Annual Plan meeting and associated resolutions. This project has suffered from delays and funding deferrals in the past. We request that early delivery of this project, the associated potential partnership opportunities, and adequate funding being made available should all be given specific mention and a high priority in the Community Board Plan, being well aligned with the Community Boards overarching vision and priorities.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit on this Plan. We would value the opportunity to speak to this submission at a future Community Board meeting.

Ngā Mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a trailing line that ends in a small hook.

Andrew Turner
Trust Manager