

**Submission to:** Christchurch NZ Banks Peninsula Destination Management Plan  
**On behalf of:** Banks Peninsula Native Forest Climate Change Group (BPNFCCG)  
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**Banks Peninsula Native Forest/Climate Change group is an informal inter-agency alliance seeking to improve opportunities for biodiversity through native forest restoration on Banks Peninsula, principally through enabling landowners who restore native forest to gain an income from this activity including through offsetting.**

The group is comprised of representatives from:

Agri Intel NZ	Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Carbon Crop NZ	Christchurch City Council
Environment Canterbury	High Bare Peak
Forever Forests NZ	Manaaki Whenua / Landcare Research
Lucas Associates	Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust
Maurice White Native Forest Trust (Hinewai Reserve)	Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour
Orion New Zealand Ltd	

The most recent IPCC report has made it clear that drastic action is needed to reduce emissions now if the world is to meet its 1.5°C target. New Zealand has committed to reduce emissions to help reach the 1.5°C target, by reducing all greenhouse gases, other than biogenic methane, to reach net zero by 2050 and to prioritise nature based solutions in planning and regulatory systems. Christchurch City Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency, and after public consultation, set a goal of reducing Christchurch emissions by 50% from their 2016/17 levels by 2030 and to zero by 2045.

News has just broken that the world is likely to exceed the 1.5°C target by 2027. This underlines the critical importance of **all** planning genuinely working toward drastic emissions reductions.

Therefore we strongly support the three pillars of the Tourism Industry Transformation Plan

- Climate change adaptation – understanding the impact that climate change will have on the tourism industry and taking action to ensure the industry can adapt to climate events
- Climate change mitigation – transforming the tourism industry into a low carbon emissions industry
- Fostering positive ecological outcomes, such as biodiversity and ecosystem restoration

and submit that the Destination Plan needs to go much deeper in its analysis and much further in its recommendations for change if it is to give meaningful effect to these Climate Change and Ecological pillars.

We therefore recommend the following:

**Low emissions tourism is the central focus for the plan**

1. That the plan includes an analysis of the emissions from different types of tourism and makes a clear statement about the tourist emissions, including their travel to Banks Peninsula from their place of origin and the emissions from their activities during their stay.
2. The key distinction in tourism type should be between low emitting and high emitting tourism, with the Peninsula seeking to offer tourism with the lower emissions.
3. Likely outcomes from this approach would be:

- a. for the Peninsula to focus on domestic tourism, including its nearest market, Christchurch City, and for longer stays for those who have incurred the high carbon emissions of coming from further afield;
- b. for the transport options to get to the Peninsula to be increasingly focused on low carbon options including public transport, walking and cycling, and making the Peninsula more EV friendly
- c. greater connectivity for walking and cycling between Christchurch and Peninsula destinations and between the Peninsula communities starting with improvement maintenance and publicity for the existing network of tracks which is extensive but in poor condition;
- d. fostering development of long distance sustainable trails including those already partly in place:
  - i. the Christchurch – Akaroa walking track (Te Ara Pātaka) which needs the final section from Hilltop to Akaroa developing as well as accommodation.
  - ii. The Little River Rail Trail which needs to connect offroad to Halswell and have a return route to Christchurch and on to Akaroa
  - iii. The Lyttelton Head to Head Walkway
  - iv. fostering of track shuttles using EVs to get people to cycling and walking trail heads, and boats or ferries in Akaroa harbour
- e. find ways to place greater emphasis on other low carbon activities and working to get these to replace high carbon activities (ie kayaking or sailing)

#### **Ecological outcomes are embedded in the plan**

4. Creating an offsetting scheme that enables (and gradually requires) tourists to offset residual emissions for their travel to and activities on Banks Peninsula.
5. This offsetting scheme to support carbon sequestration taking place Banks Peninsula, to the extent possible, with a priority on those initiatives that are absorbing and durably sequestering carbon and supporting and restoring native biodiversity.
6. Encouraging tourist ventures and activities that enable tourists to participate in conservation – in a similar way that HelpX or Wwoofing schemes in the past enabled visitors to stay with businesses or families and become involved with their activities.

#### **Comments on the Nine pou in the Short DMP:**

- We note that the Short version of the Destination Management Plan is quite different in emphasis from the Full version, and has effectively raised a series of issues or questions about specific areas to be managed.
- We understand it is now likely that there will be some further consultation, and support the suggestion that there is a second round of consultation and prefer to comment in more detail once comments from the first round of consultation have been taken into account and a revised plan issued.

We wish to be heard in support of our submission or to further engage in the process of developing the plan.