

Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust
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Little River 7546

Selwyn District Council
2 Norman Kirk Drive
Rolleston

30 April 2024

Kia Ora,

Submission on Selwyn District Council Draft Long Term Plan 2024-34

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Council's 2024-34 Draft Long Term Plan. We value the opportunity to provide feedback.

The Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust is a Christchurch City Council controlled organisation founded in 2010 for the benefit of Banks Peninsula/Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū residents and visitors. Our vision:

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.

Developing 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.

The Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust supports:

- Selwyn District Council's work to maintain and improve its sections of the Little River Rail Trail, and the Council's active collaboration with other key parties involved in the trail.
- The improvement of walking and biking access to the western Port Hills – such as Gerkins track to the Summit Road. Access to green spaces are something Selwyn residents hold with high importance. Access to recreation in nature on the Port Hills and the Little River Rail Trail is particularly beneficial for mental and physical wellbeing and helping to create environmental guardians of the future.
- Contribution of biodiversity funding for the Port Hills, such as for post fire restoration and pest and weed control, including contributions to Pest Free Banks Peninsula.
- A new cycle trail around Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere connecting to the existing Little River Rail Trail. A new cycle trail connecting Arthur's Pass to the east coast and to the Little River Rail Trail. These would support regenerative tourism.

The Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust seeks in addition:

- **A \$3,000 SDC Community Fund Grant for the 2025 Banks Peninsula Walking Festival.** The Banks Peninsula Walking Festival recently marked its 11th year milestone, hosting 25 events across the Christchurch and Selwyn Districts over four weekends, including one weekend in November 2023. Drawing in over 600 participants from diverse backgrounds, the festival offered a wide array of themes, distances, and objectives, encompassing everything from foraging and history to geology and conservation. It has become a cherished and eagerly anticipated fixture on the region's recreation calendar. In 2022, the festival was fortunate to receive a \$3,000 SDC Community Fund Grant, which provided crucial financial support and enabled the successful delivery of several

popular walks in the Selwyn District. A presentation to the full council in early 2023 by the walking festival coordinator garnered positive reception, underscoring the event's significance to the wider districts. At its core, the festival is dedicated to promoting exploration, sharing information, and fostering an appreciation for the breathtaking natural landscapes of the Banks Peninsula. Over the years, it has grown into a meticulously organized affair, attracting participants from across Canterbury and beyond. Previous editions have been lauded for their diverse range of walks, knowledgeable guides, and the enthusiastic participation of landowners.

- **Extension of public access from Gerkins Road to Ahuriri Reserve boundary.** Gerkins Road is a legal road that works its way uphill from Cossars Road. For much of its length it is aligned with a four-wheel drive track and is a popular biking route. The Walking Access Map shows that the legal road no longer extends through to Ahuriri Reserve boundary. The Trust requests that the Council make provision for the marking and construction of this route suitable for walking and biking on an alignment that matches either the legal road or is on a track that is most acceptable to adjacent landowners. If necessary, the Council should use an easement or land exchange to enable the conclusion of the most acceptable route.
- **Funding support of \$20,000 per annum to Summit Road Society** as 28% of their land is in Selwyn District Council and they provide an excellent role in fostering public access for recreation and for biodiversity enhancement. Support for access to Omaha Reserve and weed and pest control.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit on this Plan. We would value the opportunity to speak in support of our submission at the hearing.

Ngā mihi



Shelley Washington
Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust Manager / Manahautū