

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

Submission on the Waimakariri Bus Service Review

To: Environment Canterbury

Submitter: Canterbury District Health Board

Attn: Anna Stevenson
Community and Public Health
C/- Canterbury District Health Board
PO Box 1475
Christchurch 8140

Proposal: Environment Canterbury are proposing a number of changes to Waimakariri Bus Services to improve connections in the district and meet objectives under the Regional Public Transport Plan.

SUBMISSION ON WAIMAKARIRI BUS SERVICE REVIEW

Details of submitter

1. Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB).
2. The Ministry of Health requires the submitter to reduce potential health risks by such means as submissions to ensure the public health significance of potential adverse effects are adequately considered during policy development.

Details of submission

3. We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Waimakariri Bus Service Review. The future health and wellbeing of our population is not just reliant on hospitals and clinical care, but on structures such as a public transport system which provide the means for people to reach essential services and facilities, employment, medical care, education, and connects people to each other.

General comments

4. Transport is an important determinant of health as how people travel and connect influences a number of health outcomes. For example, low physical activity is the 10th leading risk factor for death and disability in New Zealand and contributes to a number of preventable diseases which cause the most deaths per year in the developed world¹. However public transport can contribute towards increased rates of walking and physical activity due to its very nature and design.
5. A well-functioning public transport system is an essential contribution towards creating and maintaining overall population health and wellbeing. It is an essential public service, particularly for those in our region with limited transport choices. It is an excellent example of a structure which sits outside of the health system, yet has the ability to directly influence the health of our population. Public transport planning is by default, health and wellbeing planning. They should not be considered in isolation from one another.
6. The CDHB acknowledges both Environment Canterbury and the Waimakariri District Council for the collaborative, upstream approach taken during this bus service review. Many of the queries raised by the CDHB have already been

¹ Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. 2018. <http://www.healthdata.org/new-zealand>

addressed via these conversations, therefore the following submission merely reiterates previously discussed points.

Specific comments

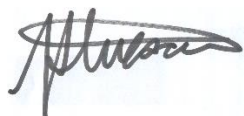
7. The CDHB supports new connections between towns and key activity centres in Waimakariri. Growth in the area over recent years emphasises that Waimakariri is now offering multiple opportunities for employment, education and social activities. Previous route configuration did not recognise these connections, and reinforced the notion that movement is purely from main town centres into Christchurch. The new proposed connections between Rangiora, Woodend, Pegasus, Kaiapoi and Silverstream encourage and support local movement via public transport, as well as continuing to provide a connection into Christchurch city.
8. The CDHB acknowledges the need to reduce levels of service on the 95 line due to ongoing low patronage and that this change allows for redistribution of resources for better connections overall between towns. It is recommended that the proposed hours of operation for the 95 line is reviewed in the 6 months following this change, via community engagement such as a survey of residents in the area. This would identify any need to slightly adjust the operating hours to further improve patronage during peak times.
9. The CDHB encourages further conversation between Environment Canterbury and communities such as Tuahiwi and Waikuku who will not receive service coverage, yet may benefit from an on demand service, or assistance with starting a community vehicle trust going forward.
10. The CDHB supports provision of a limited express service (stops at a selection of key stops) on the Blue Line and 95 whilst opportunities for rapid transport are being considered by NZTA, Environment Canterbury and the Waimakariri District Council. This would continue to promote bussing as a convenient and time-efficient option for commuting into Christchurch city, and discourage single-occupancy car use.
11. Park and ride options should be advertised locally, and expanded as required, as this provides additional commuting options for those who may not live in one of the main centres serviced by a bus route.

Conclusion

12. The CDHB does not wish to be heard in support of this submission.

13. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on Waimakariri Bus Service review.

Person making the submission



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