

Submission to Regenerate Christchurch

On the draft Outline for the Ōtākaro/Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan

By

## **Greening the Red Zone**



22 January, 2017

We wish to thank Regenerate Christchurch for seeking public submissions on the draft Outline for the Ōtākaro/Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan.

We are aware Regenerate Christchurch is not legally required to seek public submissions on this document. We believe the fact it has done so shows a genuine desire to include Christchurch citizens in regeneration planning for the Ōtākaro/Avon River Red Zone, and co-create a plan that benefits all of Christchurch.

We thank Regenerate Christchurch for this inclusive approach.

Having read and discussed the draft Outline for the Ōtākaro/Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan, Greening the Red Zone wishes to highlight three areas where we believe amendments will help to ensure genuine, widespread consultation and engagement:

- Information availability
- Creating the vision
- Regeneration plan feedback.

## **Information availability**

In the introduction to the draft outline, Regenerate Christchurch states: “The Ōtākaro/Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan will be developed utilising the best available information on the challenges and opportunities of the existing environment.”

In section 5, Proposed opportunities for public engagement, it states: “Regenerate Christchurch will ensure that public information relevant to the preparation of the draft plan is freely and easily available.”

In section 6, the Proposed process for developing the Ōtākaro/Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan, Step 1 involves research: “...obtaining, sharing, considering, and understanding information and knowledge about the Area...”

Step 3 in section 6 includes “more detailed assessment and evaluation of land use options, including (where necessary) obtain additional technical information.”

*We submit that ALL such information about the Area, the environment, feasibility, projected costs and projected benefits, must be made publicly and accessibly available – in a form that lay people can easily understand – AS SOON AS IT IS KNOWN.*

*This information needs to be available in detailed AND summarised forms, to cater for the needs of all the community.*

*It is important the public have access to easily understandable information as early as possible, so it can inform and influence their opinions on, wishes for, and feedback about what they believe should happen in the Area.*

## **Creating the vision**

In section 2, What the Ōtākaro/Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan is intended to achieve, Regenerate Christchurch states the process will result in “A clear vision for the regeneration of the Area”.

In section 6, step 2 Visioning does not contain any specific reference to public and community involvement in developing this vision.

*We submit that the people of Christchurch must be specifically and genuinely included in the development of the vision for the Area.*

*There must be numerous, accessible opportunities to contribute to the vision, across the entire city, for community groups, interest groups, residents, neighbours, and all community stakeholders in the Avon River Red Zone.*

*For example, a “Share an idea” website submission page and/or email address, allowing free and unprompted submissions, would capture individual ideas from diverse people who might otherwise not be included, or not feel confident in asking to be included.*

## **Regeneration plan feedback**

In section 7, Proposed timeframes, 30 working days are allocated for public feedback on the draft regeneration plan. Working through the timeline, it appears this will happen over November and December of 2017.

*We submit that the time allocated for public feedback – effectively 6 weeks – is not sufficient time for genuine, inclusive feedback and consultation, especially given the likely time of year this will happen.*

*This period should be extended to at least 50 working days, and must include multiple opportunities for and methods of giving feedback, through as many different channels as is possible.*

*In particular, we believe there should be a highly visible publicity campaign, reaching all sectors of society, encouraging feedback and making clear how it can be given, so people do not have to actively seek out how they can be involved.*

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission, and look forward to continuing to work with Regenerate Christchurch to ensure the best possible outcome for the Avon River Red Zone.

Ashley Campbell

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Co-chairs

On behalf of

[Greening the Red Zone Inc.](#)