

26.03.21

Talofa lava Environment Canterbury Councillors,

Re: Te Pae Tawhiti – 2021 – 31

I enjoyed reading the ECAN proposal and the values that underpin the vision and purpose for whatever path you will collectively lead us on. I wanted also to thank Cr Phil Clearwater, and you all for considering my letter of 02.03.20 about alcohol advertising on buses, and the actions taken to ensure ECAN determines appropriate advertising in the areas of influence it has.

In terms of the proposals put forward I am a strong supporter of 'Option 1' particularly because it will enable ECAN to do more to address climate change (in the areas outside of the specific climate change spend), protect whenua and ensure more people can participate in its work.

As someone who uses public transport in Ōtautahi, I find it troubling it would even be an option to not enable the Timaru on-demand public transport to bed down, so more people can draw on this transport option and support our Canterbury wide efforts to reduce our emissions. As we see in the Ōtautahi youth sector these public transport options if at the right price point, also enable young people, elderly and those with limited incomes to have greater social connection and wellbeing too.

In the context of your desire to "Champion safe, multi-modal transport choices"¹ there will be a deep opportunity for ECAN going forward in your transport policy to consider and fully incorporate the approach, and findings of the report "*The relationship between transport and mental health in Aotearoa New Zealand.*"² As a former panel member of the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction 2018,³ it is heartening to see this report centred around our findings and in particular 'Whakawātea te Ara' and 'Vai Niu' - Māori and Pacific visions of mental health and wellbeing.⁴ This report in great detail outlines two South Island Pacific young people's stories of their use of public transport. They talk about the need for greater "Pacific presence" across all transport systems, and making policy choices in the context of the Realm of New Zealand, and other Pacific constitutional considerations.⁵ From consultation commentary option 1 would enable you to innovate more.

Another core reason for my support is that this option will open the opportunity for more schools to benefit from the Enviroschools programme, and support for communities to develop their own projects to support our environment.

Fa'afetai, blessings in your work.



Josiah Tualamali'i

¹ Page 7 of the ECAN Consultation Document

² <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/research/reports/675/675-the-relationship-between-transport-and-mental-health-in-aotearoa.pdf>

³ <https://mentalhealth.inquiry.govt.nz/assets/Summary-reports/He-Ara-Oranga.pdf>

⁴ Please see pages 82 – 89.

⁵ Please draw on all of this report, but also specifically see pages 38-43.