

18 August 2005

Michelle Flanagan
Consultation Leader
Christchurch City Council
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Christchurch



Dear Michelle

Ferrymead Bridge Lifelines Project

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this important infrastructure project.

We would like to raise three points we feel need to be given serious consideration to bring this project to a successful conclusion.

1. We understand the need to construct the abutments and their supporting embankments so they will resist liquefaction. However this seems to result in the stream width being made narrower by a significant amount. From my reading of the Wallingford Report (1970) such a restriction in the channel of the Heathcote River is going to result in a significant increase in the risk of flooding in the Lower Heathcote River. We are concerned that this issue has not been given sufficient weight in the hydraulic design for the current proposal.
2. By making the channel narrower the velocities will increase and result in increased bed erosion. This will lead to significant lowering of the stream bed that may extend up and down stream for some considerable distance. We understand that some of the lower silt layers in the river are heavily contaminated with industrial pollutants. Should the silt erosion lead to these lower layers being disturbed there is a distinct possibility that these industrial pollutants may be released into the Estuary.
3. The proposed plan clearly shows reclamation of the Estuary. The Trust's position on Estuary reclamation is that where this is unavoidable and is for the benefit of the public, the area lost to the Estuary should be given back by making another part of the Estuary bigger. A good example of enlarging the Estuary is the work being done to connect the Charlesworth Reserve to the Estuary. We suggest there is merit in letting sea water back into the Linwood paddocks and would give such a proposal favorable consideration.

We hope you will give our suggestions a favorable hearing.

Alex Drysdale
CHAIRMAN

Wallingford Report (1970). Christchurch, New Zealand: Model studies of flood alleviation.
(A copy is held in the University of Canterbury, Engineering Library.)