

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON THURSDAY 28 MAY 2009, AT 4 pm

**Steve Parry
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

21 May 2009

A G E N D A

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Confirmation of Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Gore District Council held on 19 May 2009.

2. CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED TO THE DRAFT 2009/19 LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN

**REMINDER - PLEASE ENSURE
YOU BRING ALL THREE
VOLUMES OF THE
SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED TO
THIS MEETING**

STAFF COMMENT ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED TO DRAFT 2009-19 LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN

(Memo from Chief Executive – 21.05.09)

The following comments are offered from an operational perspective on submissions received to the 2009/19 draft Long Term Council Community Plan to assist Councillors in their deliberations:

SUBMISSION NO.1 – Gore and Districts Citizens Advice Bureau

A request for financial assistance from the Gore and Districts Citizens Advice Bureau. The Bureau certainly provides a valuable, informative service to members of the public. The Council may wish to adopt a similar approach used for the likes of the Gore Counselling Centre last year and nominate a small annual grant in the order of \$1,500-\$2,000 range as a token of the value it places on the service provided.

SUBMISSION NO. 2 – Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

The submitter has asked that its youth goal be incorporated into the Council's LTCCP. The goal is laudable with the only difficulty being that there is no obvious place within the current framework of the LTCCP in which this goal can be incorporated.

It is suggested that the 2012 iteration of the LTCCP, which will in all likelihood include a community development section, be used as the starting point to incorporate the goal of all young people under the age of 25 being engaged in appropriate education, training, work or other options which lead to long term economic independence and wellbeing. Such an approach will also give the Council time to determine its role in pursuit of this objective.

SUBMISSION NO. 3 – Your Own Home Ltd

The issue at the centre of this submission is the Council's adopted philosophy to rate based upon each separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit, as specifically permitted under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. As the bed-sit units are self-contained, and are provided for long term tenancy rather than short term accommodation as applies to motels, they have each been assessed as a separate rateable unit.

Through my research I am happy that the Council's existing policy has been appropriately administered in terms of existing guidelines, in that the bed sits are provided primarily for long term tenancy and each have effectively been assessed on the same rating basis, as a separate dwelling would be. Based on the submission the Council may wish to consider whether accommodation of this nature should

be viewed slightly differently, given the configuration of the accommodation. Whilst I have not visited the premises, the submitters indicate that each bed-sit comprises one single room for living/sleeping, along with a small toilet/shower room and all bed sits share a communal laundry. Based on the description they would appear to be somewhat less well appointed than a “normal” domestic dwelling and a review of their rateability could be considered.

The General Manager, Corporate Services recommends that the Council clarify the rateability of long term rental accommodation in terms of the definition of “separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit” by clearly defining the base characteristics of the units. It is suggested that consideration be given to the following:

- Are the units specifically designed for a single tenant?
- Do the units have separate living and sleeping areas?
- Does each unit have their own:
 - Working facilities?
 - Laundry facilities?
 - Toilet/washing facilities?

Whilst this is not an exhaustive list it provides staff with some certainty of interpretation.

SUBMISSION NO. 4 – Gore District Council

A technical submission from Council staff. No further comment required.

SUBMISSION NO. 5 – Sustainable Future

This appears to be a generic submission with no specific reference to the Gore District Council’s LTCCP. The submitter appears to be unaware that the Council has prepared its LTCCP with sustainable development in the foreground of its thinking. It is recommended that the Council note the submission but not make any specific amendments to its LTCCP in response to the issues raised.

SUBMISSION NO. 6 – Trish Morris – Top Town Co-ordinator

Financial assistance in the form of an annual grant of \$10,000 is sought to ensure that a Gore Top Town Team is a part of future competitions. Feedback from the community in terms of the entry submitted by Gore in the recently resurrected national Top Town competition has been extraordinarily positive. Community pride in seeing the team perform so well was a notable part of the benefits that accrued.

Making available an operational grant as suggested in the submission will ensure that the Top Town team from Gore will be well prepared in future competitions to ensure that the District continues to punch above its weight.

SUBMISSION NO. 7 - New Zealand Automobile Association (Southland)

A supportive submission from the Southland District of the New Zealand Automobile Association. No comment from staff is required.

SUBMISSION NO. 8 – Environment Southland

A submission from Environment Southland formally advising that it is imposing an annual research and monitoring (water use) charge in its draft 2009-2019 LTCCP. In bringing this albeit late notice to the Council's attention, Environment Southland has asked that the Gore District Council draft LTCCP be amended to include mention of this charge and the Statement of Cost figures in the water activity within the Plan.

As the Council has resolved to make a submission to Environment Southland's draft LTCCP to contest the rationale in fairness of this charge, it is suggested that the Council merely receive and note the submission at this stage.

SUBMISSION NO. 9 – John B Kennedy

The submitter expresses opposition to the proposed of a three bin kerbside recycling service. No further comment from staff is required.

SUBMISSION NO. 10 – Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management

The General Manager District Assets makes the following comments in response to the suggestion put forward by the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management:

Regional Delivery of Civil Defence

Since writing the draft LTCCP there has been significant development in terms of the neighbouring Councils working collectively to deliver Civil Defence Emergency Management. The Chief Executives, under the umbrella of the Shared Services Committee, have commissioned a report into the preferred option for a future structure of Civil Defence Emergency Management. The Shared Services Committee acknowledged the work carried out by a working party lead by John Lovell.

It is recommended that a change be made to the wording of the LTCCP to support the work carried out to-date and to continue to support the study of the delivery structure of Civil Defence Emergency Management in Southland.

Where the outcomes of the report identify opportunities to have a more co-ordinated efficient structure across Southland, the Council will work with other local authorities to implement the changes required.

SUBMISSION NO. 11 – Glenys Dickson

The Council's Planning Consultant makes the following comments on the issues raised in this submission:

This submission raises concerns about the loss of natural biodiversity values and indigenous vegetation removal, particularly on the Hokonui Hills and from forestry and dairying activities. These are relevant issues arising from Council's functions under the Resource Management Act 1991.

They are issues that are becoming of increasing concern, not only within the Gore District, but within Southland as a whole. They are issues that require consideration by both district councils and Environment Southland with an agreed co-ordinated approach taking place across the entire region. For that reason these issues are best considered within the framework of the Regional Policy Statement, rather than by one Council acting alone. The Regional Policy Statement is due for review and as a first step in that process a discussion document is intended for public release in early June. Public meetings will also be held to enable discussion of the document. The Gore District Council, through its planning consultant, has had input into the discussion document and the supporting background papers. All of the issues raised by Glenys Dickson are recognised as being of regional significance and included in the discussion document.

The Gore District Council will be working through these issues within the structured framework of the Regional Policy Statement review. It is the most efficient and cost effective approach to the issues. Glenys Dickson is also encouraged to become involved in that process. Her background knowledge of these issues will be helpful to the process.

Following the review of the Regional Policy Statement, the Gore District Council is required by the Resource Management to amend its district plan to implement any provisions contained in the Regional Policy Statement.

SUBMISSION NO. 12 – Bill Dore

The submitter expresses opposition to the proposed of a three bin kerbside recycling service. No further comment from staff is required.

SUBMISSION NO. 13 – Wayne Harpur

The submitter seeks the Council's support to introduce the ability to hold a binding referendum on the question of the creation of a single local authority for Southland with such a referendum being able to be put to voters for the 2010 Local Body Elections.

Without wishing to enter into the political debate of the merits or otherwise of amalgamation into a single local authority for Southland, the key concern in regard to the submission being put forward is the wish to change the current legislation which can potentially circumvent the wishes of smaller Districts. The current legislation for reorganisation as contained in Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002 provides for each affected local authority District in an amalgamation proposal having to record more than 50% of votes in favour of such a proposal before it is given legal effect.

The prime purpose of the submission put forward by Mr Harpur, is to remove local ratepayer's ability to determine their own destiny. This seems very undemocratic. If more than 50% of Gore District ratepayers do not want to be part of a larger local government entity, surely this wish should be respected. Under Mr Harpur's proposal there is no guarantee that it would be.

SUBMISSION NO. 14 – Te Ao Marama Inc.

A supportive submission from Te Ao Marama Inc

It is suggested that the amendments sought in respect of Maori capacity to contribute to decision making processes (refer page 164 of the draft LTCCP) be incorporated in the final version of the Plan.

SUBMISSION NO. 15 – Public Health South

A largely very supportive submission from Public Health South. There are a few issues however that the submitters has raised for Council consideration. Commenting briefly on these issues:

a. Community Outcomes

It is difficult to comprehend the suggestion by the submitter that linkages between the proposed activity and the relevant outcome could be made more explicit. The Council has done a considerable amount of work on its performance management framework including

a reference back to the appropriate community outcome to which the level of service relates. This particular framework was the subject of positive comment from the Auditor-General's hot review team. Therefore it is hard to see how this could be made clearer.

b. Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venue Policy Review

Public Health South has asked the Council to undertake a social impact study when next reviewing its Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venue Policy. It is also opined that the overall strategy should be to manage down the number of machines in the Gore District. This is not the current policy of the Council and elected members may wish to signal whether any change in direction is likely at the next review.

c. Litter on River Bank

The submitter has suggested that the Council be more active in both leadership and in a hands-on role in addressing the problem of litter on the Mataura River bank. The Council recently offered its support to a remit at the Combined Zone 5 and Zone 6 Local Government Meeting in Christchurch to raise the level of fines for the dumping of litter of a kind that is experienced along the Mataura River bank.

In regard to the call for greater leadership and hands-on role in promoting a cleaner and tidier environment, the Council's Asset Manager, Utilities makes the following comments:

St Peters College, River Valley Lions, Westpac Bank and Knapdale School all carry out a yearly clean up of the Mataura river bank. The Baptist Church does this on a more regular basis. The Council is also involved in promoting "Keep New Zealand Clean" week. One of the positive aspects, if the Council was to offer a kerbside bin collection system to urban residents, is that it would in all likelihood reduce the incidence of indiscriminate dumping.

d. Civil Defence

The General Manager District Assets provides the following comments on the suggested development of a community recovery plan:

Gore Civil Defence has taken the opportunity to better understand the psychosocial issues which could arise during or after an emergency or traumatic event. The Chief Welfare Officer who is also the Chairman of the local Victim Support Group attended a seminar on Foundations of Psychosocial Support in Emergency Management. This was run by Dr Serb Johal, who represented the Emergency Management Team, Ministry of Health, New Zealand. Gore Civil Defence now has some understanding of the psychosocial issues which can arise after an emergency or traumatic event. It is envisaged that the development of a

Community Recovery Plan will be incorporated into the scope of the review of regional delivery of Civil Defence Emergency Management in Southland

SUBMISSION NO. 16 - ACC

A predominantly supportive submission from ACC which includes interesting statistics on injuries occurring within the District. No specific changes in the LTCCP are sought.

SUBMISSION NO. 17 – Doug Hasler

The concern raised in the submission regarding the pedestrian walkway on the Gore Bridge, is commented on:

Walkway Safety

The safety and security of the walkway on the Gore Bridge has been of concern for some time. Investigation of measures to combat the significant vandalism problem where the deck slabs are prised up and thrown into the river is being carried out. The suggested solution submitted will be added to the possible measures considered.

This is an operational issue for which funding is available. The submission does not require inclusion in the LTCCP or RAMP.

SUBMISSION NO. 18 – Ivan and Betty Horrell

A submission that opposes the introduction of a kerbside recycling service. No specific comment from staff is required.

SUBMISSION NO. 19 - Gore District Council

A staff technical submission that is self explanatory.

SUBMISSION NO. 20 - Invercargill City Council

A request from the Invercargill City Council, for the Council to reconsider its stance on not making a contribution towards the cost of hosting two Rugby World Cup 2011 games in Invercargill. No staff comment is required. Councillors may however wish to refer to the staff report that was prepared when this item was previously considered by the Council earlier in the year. (Copy attached).

SUBMISSION NO. 21 – John Adams

The submitter seeks a comprehensive overhaul of the LTCCP believing that the draft document is deficient in its deference to the issues of climate change, peak oil and sustainable development. These are very

much in the domain of political philosophy and the suggestions put forward are best left for the elected members to ponder on. Comments made about the undesirability of a new lignite based industry and investigation of other options for recycling other than the three bin kerbside collection service are also matters for political consideration.

In the area of parks and reserves the submitter seeks a greater profile for Dolamore Park in the LTCCP. Whilst Dolamore Park is certainly a prized District and regional asset there are also other key reserves that are not specifically mentioned in the LTCCP, but are given due consideration and attention in the Parks and Reserves Activity Management Plan which underpins the LTCCP. It is therefore suggested that no actual change to the commentary or content of the parks and reserves activity within the LTCCP needs to occur. Avid readers who have an interest in any specific area can ask and be supplied with the relevant Activity Management Plan which will contain more detail on an asset basis.

In a similar vein, the suggestion that the Council's support of a community garden be incorporated in the LTCCP, is probably at this juncture, a little out of place. It is not a significant feature that needs or warrants separate mention. It is suggested that a community garden would be more likely to feature in a Community Development section within the plan.

The General Manager, District Assets provides the following comments:

Environmental Effects and Sustainability

The 50 year projection for Southland climate change is for wetter winters and drier summers. Environment Southland manages the water resource and allocation throughout Southland. Currently Gore has consent to take up to 8,000 cubic meters of water per day from the Knapdale aquifer. Add this consent to all the other water takes from the Knapdale aquifer and it represents 15% of the annual land surface recharge generated from the annual rainfall. The Council officers believe this represents a good precautionary approach to the management of a limited resource by Environment Southland.

The threats to Gore District water supplies are not from the forecast effects of climate change but are from the over allocation of the resource. To this end Gore has taken a strong opposition to consent applications for water to irrigate farm land and see this as extravagant. A water bylaw is another tool which the Council can use to further reduce wastage. Considering the duration of this plan these are the water issues the Council needs to focus on. Come the next iteration of the LTCCP (2012) the data on climate change should improve and the Council will be able to make a more informed decision.

SUBMISSION NO. 22 – WasteNet Southland

The General Manager, District Assets recommends removing the last two sentences from the LTCCP Solid Waste section and replace with: “An opportunity currently exists for the Gore District Council to work together with Invercargill City and Southland District Council’s (WasteNet) at a combined regional level, seeking proposals for Waste Management and Recycling Services through a public tender process. WasteNet is a joint committee of the three Southland territorial authorities working together for Solid Waste Management. It was developed for the regional landfill procurement for Southland”.

By taking advantage of being involved at a regional level it is likely that there is potential for much lower costs for such services through the scale of activity at a regional level.

If the proposals prove to be economically attractive to the Council then the opinion of the ratepayers will be sought through public consultation on what services should be provided and the timing for their introduction.

SUBMISSION NO. 23 – George Carson

A wide ranging submission from Mr George Carson.

Responding to the number paragraphs listed in the submission from page 2 onwards:

1. The Council’s Roding Manager makes the following comments in regard to the opinion expressed by the submitter that rural roading standards in the Gore District are about the worst he has experienced in travels around the South Island:

1.1 Rural Roding Standards

The roading standards used by the Gore District Council are similar to those used by most other road controlling authorities in New Zealand. The NZ Transport Agency (previously Land Transport NZ) publishes an annual benchmark report on network performance indicators which provide a measure of the conformance with standards. The Gore District sealed network, both urban and rural, has consistently rated at the top or near top in these indicators.

Further evidence that the maintenance of the Gore District roads is being carried out in compliance with appropriate standards was recently provided by a NZTA Technical Audit. The technical audit of the whole of the Gore District roading network, including its gravel roads was undertaken during November 2008. Technical audits are carried by NZTA, at various intervals, on all roading networks

in New Zealand. Experienced NZTA engineers, who are involved fulltime in this work, carried out the audit. One of the conclusions that the audit team came to was that it was satisfied that the roading network, including gravel roads was being maintained to an appropriate standard.

1.2 Special Subsidy Rate

As mentioned in 1.1 above the road network is currently being maintained to an appropriate standard. This is being achieved at a relatively low cost and therefore there is no credible case for a special subsidy rate.

1.3 Transit NZ Trainer

Transit NZ is a redundant organisation which was disbanded in mid 2008. Although it is not clear, it is assumed that the submitter is a Traffic Management trainer. Unfortunately there are now many consultants (and contractors) offering traffic management training, therefore the Council is unlikely to require the submitter's services.

1.4 Reseal Contractor

It has been a long time requirement of the NZ Transport Agency (and its predecessors) that significant roading contracts requiring the use of government subsidy must be competitively tendered in accordance with its rules.

This was the case with the recently completed Gore District Council 2008/09 reseal contract. The work was fairly tendered for and the contract won by Blacktop, which is New Zealand owned and based in Hamilton. Both of the other contractors who tendered for the work are international companies. Blacktop received much praise, from the public for the professional way it undertook the work. The standard of finished work appears to be very good. It is of no surprise that a site staff member was unfamiliar with the quality plan. However, he would be familiar with many of its provisions which were in place during the contract.

Summary

The submission contains a number of statements attacking the standard of roading in the Gore District purportedly from an expert in this field. It is clear that the information on which these attacks are based is out of date or plainly incorrect and therefore can be assigned little or no credence.

2. Councillors will be aware that the Council voluntarily provides its own benchmarking statistics compared to a group of 14 similar sized Councils in New Zealand. This benchmarking analysis was made available to Councillors at the Te Anau retreat following the 2007 Local Authority Election.
3. The submitter expresses a personal view which does not need a particular response.
4. If the Minister of Local Government invites Councils to participate in an external audit then I see no reason why the Council should not agree to participate. That said, it should be noted that the current LTCCP framework provides for performance measurement across a range of Council activities. It should be noted that the auditors in the latest round of auditing LTCCPs placed a good deal of emphasis on the performance management framework adopted by Councils. Indeed it is pertinent to note that the feedback received from the Office of the Auditor-General was that in the case of the Gore District Council our performance measures were the subject of favourable remarks.
5. The request to support the initiative of Environment Southland in imposing a targeted rate on dairy farmers is one for political consideration and needs no comment from an operational perspective.
6. The Council's Planning Consultant makes the following remarks in respect of the suggestion of the submitter for the adoption of a strategy for cropping in the Mataura catchment:

Mr Carson highlights initiatives undertaken by Councils in the 1960s and 1970s to promote the use of land for particular purposes, including forestry and horticulture. The Town and Country Planning Acts of 1953 and 1977 provided for such an approach. The Resource Management Act 1991 has adopted a different approach focusing on the sustainability of resources, as opposed to their perceived "best use", with the market and individual land owners being able to determine its use. The Council no longer has a statutory basis to undertake such work and it is a matter that now falls within the advocacy functions of Venture Southland.

7. The Council's Planning Consultant provides the following comments in regard to the suggestion of setting aside an additional area for heavy industrial development:

Mr Carson requests Council to assess options to rezone additional land for heavy industrial purposes and to consider having a financial interest in the development of such area. He highlights a

shortage of industrial land in the district as an issue and he expects that as part of any undertaking by Solid Energy to develop the Southland lignite resource further industrial land will be required.

Councillors and senior Council staff have previously recognised these issues as matters that require consideration over the next few years. The plans for the development of the lignite resource are not advanced at this stage, and there is likely to be a lead in period of a number of years between a decision being made to proceed with development and construction actually beginning. That time lag will provide sufficient time for Council to consider the potentially significant impacts on the district, including demand for support infrastructure and potential downstream industrial developments. Work is being undertaken to bring together relevant information in readiness for any decisions Solid Energy may wish to make.

To date, the Council has not considered it appropriate to adopt a developer role, rather leaving that to the private sector. Contributing costs towards industrial development would create a potential risk for the Council and ratepayers. This is considered unwise, particularly taking into account uncertainty in obtaining short term financial returns from such investment.

In the meantime, the Council is working with all those people and businesses seeking to establish and expand industrial activities in the district. As demonstrated by the McNab dairy factory, the Council is able to respond quickly to facilitate appropriate developments, and in the future it is important to continue that role.

8. The Council's Planning Consultant makes the following comments in regard to the suggestion of increasing the size of future residential areas for Gore:

It is accepted that Council does have a shortage of land zoned for residential purposes in areas where demand is strong. There is for example large areas of vacant residential land in East Gore. Some of this is not suited for development, but for much of it the land owners are not interested in changing its use from farmland. The Council is unable to compel change.

Subdivision of land on the periphery of Gore is taking place, with the emphasis on the creation of larger lots between one-half and two hectares. In areas considered suitable, the land owner has been encouraged by the Council's Planning Consultant to subdivide the land more intensely. In all cases the owner has declined to do this, either because of the higher capital outlay required or a perceived lack of demand.

Notwithstanding the above, several land owners are in discussion with the planning consultant concerning a possible rezoning of land from rural to both residential and industrial. It is appropriate to await the outcome of that. If action is initiated then the wider issues can be considered at the same time. If nothing eventuates then further work to look at the expansion of the residential areas would be warranted. The criteria referred to by Mr. Carson are all relevant in determining future areas suitable for development.

9. It is difficult to agree with the submitter's suggestion that insufficient research has been carried out by the Council in terms of refuse recycling options. In association with other Southland Wastenet partners the Council over the past three or four years has conducted considerable research into recycling options for the Gore District and the wider Southland region. Utilising the experiences of other Districts the three bin kerbside collection system being mooted has already been successfully established in the Timaru District and is being replicated in other parts of New Zealand.

On the recycling front the real issue is one of philosophy and political strategy. The feedback received from the community to-date appears to have two strands of thought; one being that a three bin kerbside collection system has a lot of appeal, the other indicates a preference for the status quo. These two very different choices appear to be the crux of the issue that the Council needs to resolve.

10. The Asset Manager, Utilities makes the following observations in regard to the submitter's comments relating to the adequacy of the Gore township's water supply:

The Gore District Council is looking for an improved source of water. With the drilling and test pumping of a new well completed in April 2009, this should allow the Council to extract water up to the consented volume (3000 m³) from within the Jacobstown field. The Council is planning to install a new pump in the new well at Jacobstown in the 2009/10 year. The extraction of up to 3000 m³ per day from the Jacobstown field and up to 4000 m³ from Cooper's wells will give a secure supply of water over the summer period for Gore.

11. The General Manager, Corporate Services makes the following comments in respect of debt servicing and the Council's overall strategy in respect of the management of its debt:

Gross debt servicing costs for 2009/10 are \$988,000 (Interest \$688,000, principle \$300,000) out of total rates collected of \$10,443,000. At 9.43% this is comfortably within the submitters

perceived acceptable level of 10%. The Council has preset limits in its adopted Liability Management Policy and the LTCCP falls very comfortably within all the limits throughout the tenure of the Plan.

I am unable to comment on past property transactions and the use of funds as they occurred before the time of my employment, but I am comfortable that the Council has a good control over debt repayment through the Plan, as evidenced by the reducing debt balance on a yearly basis from 2013 onwards. The years prior to this are impacted by the provision for extensions to the Council Administration Building (\$750,000) and the ongoing development of the Arts and Heritage Precinct (\$260,000) projects which have a long term benefit and are seen to be best funded by way of loan so that the intergenerational funding aspects are addressed.

Council staff maintain schedule of debts as an integral part of the planning process, given that these are necessary to calculate the ongoing interest cost and principle repayment needs of the Council. Given that the detailed administration of this function is a staff responsibility, and guidelines in terms of policy are set in the Liability Management Policy adopted by the Council, inclusion of the level of detail suggested has not been seen as necessary. A summary by activity, along with some further commentary regarding interest rates could be included if this is seen to be informative.

12. The submitter expresses a desire to see the development of a recreational lake, should large scale mining proceed in the Waimumu area. The creation of recreational opportunities and preservation of landscape values will no doubt be factored into planning considerations for any large scale mining development, should it proceed. No further comment is required.
13. The opposition to the proposal to develop a hydro-slide at the Gore Aquatic Centre is noted. No comment from staff is required.
14. Support for the Youth Council is noted. No comment from staff is required.
15. The positive comments provided in regard to the Council's parks and reserves and playing fields are noted and welcomed. No further comment is required.
16. Digital storage of some or all of the Council records will be part of the thinking that will need to be invested in regard to the proposed expansion of the Gore administration building.

There is a progressive move toward digitisation as the IT Manager reports:

The IT and Regulatory Departments are currently electronically scanning existing records and plans into a format that will be easily retrievable for everyday use. This is an on-going project, being completed by part time staff and overseen by the IT Department, and will involve scanning other records once the existing project is completed. Microfilm or fiche is no longer a viable option as it is an old and no longer supported technology.

Electronic records are being backed up under a strict back-up regime administered by the IT Department with the media being stored off site. The data is also stored in at least two separate physical locations to alleviate the problems caused by single site storage. The IT Department will be also adding further redundancy into disaster recovery with the addition of an additional backup server in the very near future.

The submitter also asserts that the James Cumming Wing is not available for office purposes and opines that such a use would probably be in convention of the James Cumming Wing Trust deed. Councillors will be aware of course that following the furnishing of a legal opinion from Mr John Bannerman, any doubt about the legal legitimacy of the Council occupying some of the James Cumming Wing space for its own office accommodation, has been removed.

17. The submitter seeks or suggests that the Council approve additional funding for libraries of the District with a particular emphasis on new book purchases. It will be noted that the Council during its deliberations on a draft budget for 2009/10 opted to not embrace a recommendation from the District Librarian and maintain the current level of funding provided for the purchase of new books.
18. The submitter suggests that building consent fees need to be reviewed downwards and asserts that building consent fees in the Gore District are nearly twice as expensive as some other adjoining local authorities. It should be noted that the building consent fees recently approved by the Council are a direct reflection of the firm wish to adopt a 100% user pays approach to this activity. Any reduction in the fee level can be achieved but would be at the expense of the general ratepayer.
19. The General Manager, Corporate Services makes the following comments in response to the submitter's observations in regard to the Council's depreciation of assets policies:

Generally accepted accounting principles dictate that appropriate depreciation must be charged. Replacement and upgrading of assets are all capitalised, and along with interest and principle

repayments are offset against the depreciation funding envelope when rates are set i.e. funded depreciation is used to fund asset replacement/upgrades, interest costs, principal repayments and transfers to reserve for future asset replacement should excess funding be available.

20. The following comments are provided by the Council's Roding Manager and Parks and Recreation Manager respectively in respect of the submitter's concerns about the condition of the road leading to Dolamore Park and the development of forestry in the area:

Comments from the Roding Manager:

The submitter did not make it clear, in his submission, whether he was referring to the sealed section of Dolamore Park Road (the section on which most travellers from Gore or Invercargill would use) or the gravel section. Both sections are however maintained to appropriate standards. Many examples of roads in much worse condition than Dolamore Park Road can be found throughout the South Island.

Comments from the Parks and Recreation Manager:

The submitter questions ownership of the native bush clad area to the west and east of Dolamore Park.

This land is owned and administered by the Department of Conservation. I would be confident in saying that any suggestion of a request to the Department of Conservation to clear fell native bush and make way for a forest of exotic species would struggle to gain a response, let alone approval from the Department of Conservation.

Department of Conservation policies nationwide revolve around the exclusion of exotic flora and fauna species on conservation estates.

21. The General Manager of District Assets provides the following comments concerning the State Highway and railway bridges and the hazards that they may pose in a civil defence emergency:

When Environment Southland was contacted regarding the gravel build up on State Highway and railway bridges in Gore it stated that the gravel was sitting on a rock base and was considered fluid. In a flood event the flow will move the gravel downstream from the bridges and therefore Environment Southland do not see it as a concern. Furthermore, I would point out that Environment Southland's draft LTCCP level of service states:

We will:

• undertake a comprehensive review of the standard of protection (level of service) of all flood protection assets provided by Environment Southland to rural and urban areas of Southland within the Mataura, Oreti, Makarewa, Aparima, Invercargill City, Waiau, Whitestone, Upukerora and Ellis Creek, Lagoon Creek and Reids Dale (ELR) catchments to allow for those communities to make informed decisions on their use and development of their floodplain areas.

22. The submitter's comments on performance management within the Council and compliance with statutes are ill informed. Councillors will be aware that following numerous allegations made by unsuccessful candidates at the last local authority election, the Council was subjected to a specific review of key areas of concern by the Office of the Auditor-General. The submitter who was one of the complainants should know that the Auditor-General cleared the Council of all allegations levelled against it.

The Council has in place a comprehensive performance appraisal system which has been sought by other Councils for adoption in their organisations. This system which has now been in place for seven years has resulted in significant performance gains and includes an annual appraisal of training and development needs. The most comprehensive appraisal process of course relates to the Chief Executive which includes a 360 degree view of his performance in the preceding year. Any intensification or amendment of this process is of course at the sole discretion of the Council.

Finally it should be noted that following the complaint to the Department of Labour last year alleging harassment and work place bullying, the Council now has in place specific policies on stress, harassment and bullying.

23. The Council's rating system is complex given the size of the District. However, it is a direct result of considerable refinement via successive funding reviews during 2001-2005 to best meet the needs of competing ratepayer interests. It is not surprising therefore that a high degree of targeting occurs within the Council's rating strategy.

Commentary on some other aspects of the LTCCP document

The submitter prides the commentary of the suggested changes and observations in regard to the Council's LTCCP document. Most of

these are comments and don't necessarily require any response from staff. However, there are a few that do deserve some response:

Page 5

The Council is not obliged to meet ISO14001 and therefore does not need to have in place an environmental plan. ISO14001 is not a law but an international standard. The Council's obligations in regard to environmental matters are principally met by an operative District Plan prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Page 34

The submitter correctly identifies a typographical error. The word referred to in the last line of the first paragraph on page 34 of the LTCCP should indeed be, *deleterious*.

Page 49

Reference to the Dangerous Goods Act 1974 is indeed incorrect as it has since been superseded by the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. However, the Food Act 1981 is still in vogue. The other suggested statutes that should be included in the regulatory activity are not appropriate inclusions as they do not relate specifically to the Council's Planning and Regulatory Department, which page 49 of the Plan focuses on.

SUBMISSION NO. 24 – Community Networking Trust

The submitter seeks to expand the indicators used in Community Outcomes 4 and 5 in order that there is a better and more meaningful alignment with the intermediate outcomes in particular. It should be noted that the compilation of indicators linked to the community outcomes is the result of work undertaken by an officer advisory group representing the four Councils in Southland. From a personal point of view and as a member of the advisory group I believe the submitter has a valid point in terms of Outcome 4 and the lack of an indicator to support the intermediate outcome of, "*We live in a compassionate, caring community*".

I am not altogether sure however that the suggested additional indicators in respect of Outcome 5 will improve the measurement of performance in this area. For example, the number of submissions that a Council receives could be viewed in different ways. Does a low number of submissions represent mainly satisfaction with the Council's performance or apathy and disinterest? Or does a high number of submissions represent interest and engagement in Council activities or a high level of dissatisfaction?

It is therefore suggested that the Council refer the suggestions in this part of the submission to the Our Way Southland Officers Advisory Group to see whether any expansion or amendment of indicators is justified. If this proves to be the case, amendment to the outcomes part of the LTCCP could be incorporated into the following year's annual plan.

The submitter has also requested that a separate community development segment be incorporated in the LTCCP. The omission of a designated section for community development was a deliberate action in recognition that it is still an evolving area for the Council and the new Community Development Officer, has only just come on board. It was therefore considered on balance that the Council's strategy in this area will be firmed up over the next couple of years with a view to having a separate community development section contained in the 2012 iteration of the LTCCP.

SUBMISSION NO. 25 – Southland Warm Homes Trust

A progress report from the Southland Warm Homes Trust which contains a business plan for 2008/09. The Trust seeks further contribution of \$15,000 from the Council to assist with its work programme in 2009/10. The draft LTCCP does provide for the provision of \$15,000 to the Trust as requested.

SUBMISSION NO. 26 – Gore District Council

A technical submission from Council staff. No further comment required.

SUBMISSION NO. 27 – Gore District Council

A technical submission from Council staff. No further comment required.

SUBMISSION NO. 28 – NZ Historic Places Trust

The Arts and Heritage Curator makes the following comments:

3. Addition of Items to Table 25.5.1 - Scheduled Heritage Structures

Staff resources have already been allocated to researching additions to the heritage register. A variation to the District Plan will be sought in the near future to include further buildings in Gore, Matakura and other out-lying settlements.

This is a significant task as there are no pre-1958 building records in existence.

While the Council for many years contributed funding to support the position of NZAA File keeper at Southland Museum and Art Gallery, the officer did not manage to undertake any work within Gore District. The position was eventually merged into an Invercargill focused 'collection management' role. Apart from 'find' and generic sites of potential archaeological interest, there are no formally surveyed sites on our Heritage Register. To the best of our knowledge no surveys have been undertaken and it appears also that the NZAA files are now held by DoC. It is frustrating that Gore contributed significant funding to SMAG over many years, and no survey work was undertaken within the District.

Liaison with HPT and DoC would be welcome to remedy this, but I would suggest a desired outcome would involve a substantial consultancy exceeding the suggested \$15,000. I would recommend that HPT initiates a process whereby its own resources, those of DoC, Te o Marama and the Department of Arts and Heritage be brought together in order to establish a strategic direction for initiating identification of key sites - before a 'dollar value' is put on this process.

4. *Discounting of Rates and Consent Fees on Heritage Buildings*
This issue is probably best addressed when the District has a complete Heritage Register.
5. *Discretion on Earthquake Strengthening for Heritage Buildings*

The Council encourages owners and developers of heritage buildings to work with Council staff in order to encourage adaptive reuse. A good example of this is the retention of the former Ambrose building that was initially recommended for demolition.

SUBMISSION NO. 29 – HEHA

The submitter has made a couple of specific suggestions in areas of the development of policy or guidelines into the range and type of food that is provided in Council facilities and the development of a walking and cycle strategy. The Parks and Recreation Manager provides the following comments:

Aquatic Services

The Council is currently committed to providing aquatic services in Gore and Mataura. This may come under closer scrutiny in the future due to the Mataura facilities age, growing maintenance requirements and the issue of heating an uninsulated facility with fossil fuels.

Accessibility is noted as something to be maintained, however the majority of urban dwelling residents throughout New Zealand would

acknowledge that a distance of 12 km or under 10 minutes in a vehicle is not a real barrier in this day and age. Furthermore, in late 2008 when the Mataura pool was closed due to a lack of suitably qualified staff, the Council supplied free transport from Mataura to Gore, so that those wanting to participate in aquatic activities were not disadvantaged. This service received minimal uptake from the residents of Mataura.

The Council does not have a policy on the range and type of foods available to be purchased at the Aquatic Centre. This topic has been discussed at length between the Parks and Recreation Manager and the Aquatic Services Manager, with the outcome being that in the near future when more consumables are available to Multisport Complex users, there will be a dedicated range of products available at all times that offer consumers the “healthy choice”. Healthy eating choices will be addressed in the Multisport Complex’s Reception Manual.

SUBMISSION NO. 30 – GORE RURAL RATEPAYERS

The submitter touches on issues that have been well and truly debated and resolved in recent years. No further comment from staff is required.

SUBMISSION NO. 31 – SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SOUTHLAND

The suggested changes to the draft LTCCP contained in the submission regarding disabled access, and walking and cycling opportunities, are commented on:

1. Suggested Changes

Change 1 – Roading Introduction

Most of the submitter’s points are already covered in a generic manner within the current wording. However, following the words “improve road safety”, the words “and sustainable transport” could be added to ensure coverage of this aspect.

Change 2 – Community Outcomes – Law and Order

The current words adequately cover the suggested changes in a generic manner without the need for amendment.

Change 3 – Community Outcomes - Life and Culture

The current words adequately cover the suggested changes in a generic manner without the need for amendment.

Change 4 – Community Outcomes – Health and Wellbeing

The current words adequately cover the suggested changes in a generic manner without the need for amendment.

Change 5 – Levels of Service 2009/19 – Footpaths

The Council has committed to an increased level of expenditure on the replacement of faulty or deficient pedestrian facilities in its 2008/09 budget. The budgets for the upcoming 10 years continue this accelerated programme which includes upgrading to meet the requirements of mobility impaired pedestrians, where necessary.

The current words therefore adequately cover the suggested changes in a generic manner without the need for amendment.

Change 6 – Levels of Service 2009/19

The existing road network, especially the sealed network, functions successfully as a multi modal facility for both motor vehicles and cyclists. Improvement works to the road network, such as pavement rehabilitations, incorporate seal widening (if not already at the target design width) which enhances the multi modal use.

Relatively low traffic volumes and a lack of congestion on the District's roads which allows multi modal use to be easily accommodated means that expenditure of large amounts of money purely for cycling facilities, is not warranted and is unlikely to receive support from the ratepayers.

The Council currently assesses the need for inclusion of conditions requiring cycling facilities when commenting on consent applications and applies these conditions where appropriate.

2. Recommended Inclusions

Recommendation 1 – Walking and Cycling Strategy

The Gore District Council is currently collaborating with the Southland District Council, Invercargill City Council and Environment Southland in the preparation of a Regional Active Transport Strategy which will fulfil the reason for this recommendation and therefore makes it unnecessary.

Recommendation 2 – Pedestrian and Cycling Advisory Group

The recommended advisory group is not an appropriate subject for inclusion in the LTCCP, but should be included in the Roding Activity Management Plan. The advisory group, in the spirit of

sustainability, is likely to be a regional group, as the issues and people involved are, in most cases, likely to be the same throughout the region.

Recommendation 3 – Enhancing Mobility Impaired Pedestrians Movement

This recommendation would be more appropriately directed to the Rooding Activity Management Plan, or to those of other Council activities.

Recommendation 4 – Study Sealing River Road

Sealing the balance of River Road will be an extremely large financial undertaking for the Council. It is however an issue that has been considered by the Council. Currently gravel extraction permits issued for pits, which use this road for access, pay a royalty for gravel carted. The royalties collected are for the upgrade and possible future seal extension of this road.

Again, this recommendation is more appropriately directed to the Rooding Activity Management Plan.

Recommendation 5 – Bike Lanes along State Highway One

This recommendation would be more appropriately directed to the Rooding Activity Management Plan, or those of other Council activities.

SUBMISSION NO. 32 – NZ Landcare Trust

A predominantly supportive submission from the New Zealand Landcare Trust.

In relation to the specific requests for financial assistance the following comments are offered:

a. Biodiversity Inventory

It should be noted that the request for a \$5,000 contribution to the Southland Biodiversity Inventory project differs from the request that was received and declined in last year's Annual Plan consultation process. The New Zealand Landcare Trust last year requested a contribution of \$5,000 to assist in weed control on protected biodiversity areas in Southland. This particular request relates to the biodiversity inventory project.

The submitter has correctly noted that the grant if approved by the Council would assist in the attainment of Outcome 6 in the suite of

the community outcomes that the Council is charged with endeavouring to attain.

b. Rates Rebates

It should be noted that any land in the Gore District that is subject to a QEII National Trust covenant, is non-rateable.

c. Enviro Schools Programme

The draft 2009/2019 LTCCP provides for the continuation of an annual grant of \$5,000 be made towards the Southland Enviro Schools programme throughout the duration of the 10 year planning period.

d. Community Service Awards

The submitter has suggested that an environmental category be incorporated into the annual community service awards. Consideration was given to including an environmental category in the awards when the concept was first developed in 2007. However at that time it was thought on balance that an environmental award may clash somewhat with Environment Southland's own annual environmental awards. The Council may wish to revisit the merits of this decision.

SUBMISSION NO. 33 – NZ Transport Agency (NZTA)

The tone of this submission is one of helpfulness, bringing to the attention of the Council actions that can be taken in response to various issues. NZTA could be thanked for that.

NZTA highlight that financial contributions taken by the Council can be used for the undertaking of works on roads controlled by NZTA and requested that reference be made to this in the LTCCP. The district plan does recognise that money taken for roading purposes can be expended on works on both the Council roads and state highways. It is reasonable for the LTCCP to recognise this and the other for which money is able to be spent, as set out in the District Plan. It is recommended that a new paragraph be inserted in the LTCCP as follows:

3.7 The financial contribution must be used for the purpose taken, and if not spent within ten years is to be refunded. The Council at its discretion may use financial contributions to construct new, maintain or upgrade existing infrastructure owned by the Council or government agencies, or repay loans on infrastructure owned by the Council.

NZTA also draws attention to an apparent contradiction between the Financial Contribution Policy (pages 188-189) which indicates reliance on the District Plan provisions and the Options for funding Council Services (page 166) which refers to the use of Development Contributions. This can be rectified by the reference on page 166 of the LTCCP to read "Financial Contributions".

The Rooding Manager comments on the issues raised in the submission regarding transportation:

Issue 1 – Amend References

Agreed that all references to Land Transport New Zealand, LTNZ, Transit New Zealand, Transit NZ, TNZ, Land Transport Safety Authority and LTSA should be amended as suggested in the submission.

Issue 2 – CAPEX Projects

A submission to the Regional Land Transport Programme and/or Land Transport Programme may be required to ensure Minor Works and New Footpath Activities are correctly in the programmes.

Issue 3 – Format of Rooding Statement of Cost of Service

The suggestion to format this table in a similar manner to the Land Transport Programme showing individual activity classes should be considered. However this is already contained in the Rooding Activity Management Plan which NZTA have a copy of.

Issue 4 – Performance Measures for Recreational Walking and Cycling

This suggestion is better directed at the improvement programme contained in the Rooding Activity Management Plan. This may be an outcome of the Regional Active Transport Strategy which is currently being worked on. Incorporation of such measures in the LTCCP should be targeted for the 2012 review.

Issue 5 – Potential Negative Effects

The suggested possible mitigation measures should be directed at the improvement programme contained in the Rooding Activity Management Plan with possible incorporation into the LTCCP in the 2012 review.

Issue 6 – Forecasting Assumptions

Consideration should be given to the suggested additional risks to provision of subsidy funding by NZTA.

SUBMISSION NO. 34 - SOUTHLAND COMMUNITY WASTEBUSTERS TRUST

Main Concern – Clearer consultation with the Public is needed.

The Gore District Council is committed to investigating a Southland wide approach to waste management through WasteNet. Currently WasteNet is preparing tender documents in order to test the market on hiring and innovation for a three bin system. WasteNet has consulted with and hired the services of consultants involved in establishing three bin systems in other areas. In doing so, WasteNet is gleaning the learning's from others in order to establish an improved bin service for Southland.

Understanding the costs involved is a critical component of any consultation. With this in mind, the Council has proposed a special consultative procedure with the community in 2010/2011. It should be noted that the Council has consulted with the community on options for recycling on two separate occasions and no clear mandate has come from this process to date.

Concern No.3

The Council's first priority is to reduce the waste going to the landfill. The three bin system is the best way to achieve this in the immediate future. The longer term approach is to encourage the reduction in waste being generated. Education is seen as the best means of achieving waste minimisation and to this end the Council has financially supported the Enviro schools programme at four Schools in the District.

The use of technology to affect a user pays system for any bin service would mean that each bin would have to be weighed. While this technology is available, it is not seen as either reliable or cost effective for a user pays system.

Need to also address other equally important waste stream issues

WasteNet works in conjunction with Environment Southland and has been developing a regional Waste Management Plan.

The contracting process and support to local contractors

Local contractors have been consulted through a comprehensive Registration of Interest process. There are opportunities for the local contractors to be involved in a regional service.

Long term contracts

The proposed contract term is eight years + eight years. This is aligned to expected equipment life used during the tender period. (ie expected life of a truck is eight years).

Recycling through volatile markets

It is envisaged that any return on recycled materials will be shared between the contractor and WasteNet. Therefore when returns drop, service continues. We believe that storing of recyclables in the ground will still attract the Government waste levy.

Co-mingling

Contract specifications are written in order to minimise the broken glass contamination problem. This is done by having a maximum level of compaction on recyclables being delivered to a facility. In addition to the proposed contract specification, it is the intention to have the Pakeke Lions cardboard recycling operation continuing thus giving people the choice to recycle through a regional facility. By supporting Pakeke Lions operations a cleaner product is harvested for recycling.

SUBMISSION NO. 35 - Federated Farmers of New Zealand (Southland Branch)

A constructive submission from the Dunedin office of Federated Farmers of New Zealand

a. Organisational Capacity

The submitter's concerns in respect of urging the Council to take a cautious approach to Council growth as an organisation are noted. However, it needs to be emphasised that the Council despite increasing staff members over the past few years, is still a very lean organisation. Evidence to support this contention can be obtained by comparing staff numbers in 2001 with the present day.

Staff numbers listed in the Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2001 are as follows:

Full-time staff	67
Part-time staff (full-time equivalent)	10.9

The 2009 comparison is as follows:

Full-time staff	68
Part-time staff (full-time equivalent)	15

This comparison makes for interesting reading given that in the period since 2001 the Council has opened a new aquatic centre with increased staffing compared to the older facility, has doubled the capacity of its building inspectorate, employed four cadets in the areas of information and technology, roading and utilities, employed two apprentices in the essential services area, increased its financial management capacity by establishing a new management accounting position, established a new roading supervisory position and finally the employment of a community development officer. Given this background and the enormous amount of new work created by the Local Government Act 2002, it is suggested that the fact that the Council has only increased its full-time staff by one position over the past eight years is a meritorious achievement and indicative of an ability to extract efficiencies within the existing organisation.

b. Target Rates for Arts and Heritage

The submitters suggestion that funding of arts and heritage and District promotion should be changed to a targeted rate based on the Central Business District (as alluded to in the Eastern Southland Federated Farmers submission), seems a little unfair. It needs to be borne in mind that the Council already imposes a differential on the Central Business District which results in higher rates being paid by commercial ratepayers. To load all arts and heritage expenditure on this sector would seem unfair on the basis that the inference would be drawn that other ratepayers do not derive benefit from arts and heritage and also that commercial ratepayers are already paying a premium for the receipt of certain types of Council services.

c. Funding of Pools and Libraries

The submitter has put forward a suggestion that seeks a change in the funding of aquatic services and libraries on the basis that rates are differentiated on distance from the service. Such an approach could be adopted however the drawing up of criteria and boundaries in regard to where the differentiated rate cuts in would no doubt prove to be a contentious issue. Further, and perhaps more importantly, one has to pose the question of whether such a shift is justified. The Gore District is one of the more compact rural Districts in New Zealand and does not have a large rural hinterland that is remote from the principal urban centre which can often be the case for some South Island rural local authorities in particular.

d. Parks and Reserves Funding

The submitter suggests that a targeted ward rate be introduced for parks and reserves. It is difficult to comprehend what is intended by the submitter with the suggestion. The Council already has a targeted

rate for parks and reserves which is set on a set amount per type of rateable property rather than based on capital value.

e. Funding of Roads

The submitter has suggested that the Council review the funding of its roading activity. Funding of the Council's roads currently takes place in a fairly simple, yet transparent manner. Rates collected from the rural rating area, in terms of roading, are only spent on rural roading. A similar approach is used in the urban rating area.

There seems to be a hint in submissions put forward by the submitter and others that a shift to a District wide basis for funding of roads may benefit rural ratepayers. This may not be the case when the benefit is clinically and dispassionately analysed. For example, urban ratepayers could argue with some conviction that all rural ratepayers would have to use some key urban roads, yet a reciprocal argument would be difficult to sustain. In other words there could potentially be a significant component of urban ratepayers who may never have to travel on a rural road and based on an argument of receipt of benefit and the principal of user pays could posit that they should not be contributing to the rural roading network.

It is appreciated these arguments are highly subjective and also divisive. One only has to look the ongoing debate raging now for a number of years in the Southland District about funding of its roads to realise that coming up with a solution that pleases all stakeholders is nigh on impossible.

f. In-house Service Delivery for Maintenance of Gravel Roads

The submitter has suggested that the Council have more control in the standard of its gravel road maintenance by providing the service in house. Please note that under Section 25 of the Land Transport Management Act 2003, this not a legal possibility. While the submitter has referred to the use of local authority trading enterprise as an option to allow the Council to do this work effectively, it should be noted that the Council even if it did establish a local authority trading enterprise, would have to treat it as just another company and could not under current law, confer preferential status in awarding a road maintenance contract.

SUBMISSION NO. 36 – Sport Southland

1. The proposal for a walking/jogging/running/cycling circuit from Crewe Street/Reaby Road via Terry Road to Charlton Road has featured in some recent documents i.e. the Gore District Council Parks and Reserves Activity Management Plan, the Gore District Council Physical Activity Strategy, and Environment Southland's

draft “Southland Active Transport Strategy”. With a strong focus on physical activity, active transport and cycling, safety of participants is paramount.

2. Following on from the above, if the Reaby Road access was extended to Kingdon Road and Pope Road, this would provide a valuable safe link from Gore to Croydon Bush for residents by linking the town with the facilities already in place.

The Gore Mountain Bike Club already has trails in Croydon Bush.

3. There is a national awareness of the increased participation occurring in these fields. The recent release of the Sport and Recreation New Zealand “SPARC” Active New Zealand survey, as reported to the Council’s Community Services Committee Meeting in April 2009, confirmed that annually 51,080 Southlanders recreate by walking, 32,395 by cycling and 18,284 by jogging/running.

The Parks and Recreation Manager supports this submission.

SUBMISSION NO. 37 – Sport Southland

There is no argument to the fact that Sport Southland, through its dedicated local Co-ordinator, Mr Richard Pasco provides the community with a valuable service in delivering recreational programmes.

The Council in conjunction with Sport Southland conducted a Physical Activity Strategy which was adopted by the Council in 2007. This document presented the views of the community following consultation and defined a need whereby people wanted to have programmes available should they choose to participate. These findings allowed the Council to apply to SPARC for funding to assist with the implementation of these goals. Within the past month the Council has been informed that its application has been successful. This will mean that the Gore District Council will receive \$30,000 in 2009/10, \$10,000 in 2010/11, and \$10,000 in 2011/12 financial years. This \$50,000 investment from SPARC is a commitment from Central Government which will allow this project to commence, but we need local funding for its ongoing sustainability.

In the last few years Sport Southland have been instrumental in implementing new events, such as the MLT Moonshine Trail and Gore Triathlon. With the pending opening of Stage 3, Sport Southland will have a greater ability to design, formulate and implement new and different programmes around all facets of the Gore Multisport Complex.

The Council's current contract is due to expire in June 2009 and it is timely that this request as come before the Council for its consideration.

Sport Southland's grant is currently \$15,500 per annum. This contract is for the provision of recreational services to our community. The contract between Sport Southland and the Gore District Council does not allow for inflation adjustments. The Parks and Recreation Manager acknowledges inflation over the term of this contract requires a correction and that there is a confirmed increase in demand for the services that Sport Southland provides.

The Parks and Recreation Manager therefore recommends that this submission be looked upon favourably.

SUBMISSION NO. 38 – Mataura Community Board

A submission from the Parks and Recreation Manager on behalf of the Mataura Community Board seeking additional funding to enable a part-time custodian to be employed at the Mataura Community Centre. No further staff comment is required.

SUBMISSION NO. 39 – Pakeke Lions

The concerns raised in the submission regarding a three bin waste and cycling collection service, are commented on:

The Council, through WasteNet, has expressed that any three bin proposal being implemented will not prevent the Pakeke Lions from continuing its operation. It is envisaged that the community will have the choice as to whether they wish to dispose of their paper and cardboard through the recycle bin or to drop off to the Pakeke Lions operation.

The Council will continue to support the Pakeke operation due to the benefits delivered to the community and the cleaner, recyclable material being harvested, due to less contamination. The Council will also continue to provide the free glass disposal currently on offer at the transfer station so that the community will have the ability to choose whether they want to dispose of their glass separately or risk contamination of other recyclable material by disposal through the recyclable bin.

Centralised collection points are not currently being considered as part of the collection service. Small flats and town houses may have a choice of three bins or a stacker type bin, which takes the equivalent space of one bin but has three compartments.

If the three bin service is to be implemented it would be on the basis of a Southland wide contract with a rating based on cost of service to

each territorial authority. This would mean there is no provision for urban residents to opt out, nor is there provision to opt out of any of the three bins.

The proposed service is to collect the green waste on a weekly basis, with the recyclable and waste bins being collected on alternate weeks. This means that there will be two bins put out each week.

The transfer station would remain open to accept waste and green waste. A charge for accepting green waste would remain in order to cover the costs of processing the green waste. The processing required would be shredding or chipping of the material received before transporting or composting.

The opportunity to have a local composting facility has been considered by WasteNet. A local facility becomes more complicated when considering processing organics with the green waste, due to odours and resource consent requirements. To compost organics considerable plant and infrastructure is required to manage the process in an effective manner to ensure a reusable material is the end result. With these complexities associated with processing green waste and organics the preferred option is to have a regional composting facility

SUBMISSION NO. 40 – Sally McIntyre

In response to the points raised by the submitter the General Manager Corporate Services provides the following comments:

- 1. Whilst the Council is not legally bound to increase spending it is bound to make due allowance to inflation under current legislation. On the presumption that existing approved budgets are acceptable an increased cost expectation would seem not to be unreasonable, unless there were to be a change in the level of service to be provided. Our base model and following years iterations are based on the BERL indexed assumptions and over the ten years of the Plan inflation is assessed as set out in the Assumptions section on pages 146-148.*
- 2. With regard to the pool budgets I would note that the budgets include overall rates savings of \$91,996. If this were to be used to repay debt there would be an approximate 0.88% rate increase. In this time of financial restraint this was not envisaged as being the most appropriate signal to send out to ratepayers.*

If savings result from the Penny per Unit Agreement in the 2008/09 year they will be analysed with any other costs throughout the section and any surplus will be retained for future periods within the Aquatic Centre's rating area.

3. *Budgets are initially submitted on the basis that future budgets will be prepared on a “business as usual” premise, unless it is perceived that a change of direction is necessary by either staff, Council or stakeholder feedback. This is completed on the basis that Councillors review all year one budgets on a detailed basis, as per the Council workshops on 8 December 2008 and the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 10 February 2009. At these meetings the indication was that this would form the basis of succeeding years budgets with adjustment for specific projects on a yearly basis. Schedules for the later years were provided for discussion at the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 10 February 2009.*
4. *Whilst this is a new rate in technical terms it is principally a separation of a component of the previously charged Uniform annual charge. Whilst we are collecting \$157,000 as a separate rate we receive back from the Trust \$141,000 which is now offset against the other component parts of the Uniform annual charge so that the overall rates cost is \$15,876 (\$157,148 - \$141,272). Previously the Council rated \$8,000 as its contribution to the Southland Museum, which was a part of the Uniform annual charge. The acceptance of recording the Regional Heritage Trust rate is in fact in compliance with an agreement already signed with all the constituent members of the Trust and is therefore not a discretionary decision.*
5. *With relation to the movements in the expected loan profile I would provide the following details of the projected extra loans:*
 - a. *Additional costs of Actiflo/Mataura Wetlands projects identified in 2007-2009 - \$500,000*
 - b. *Additional loan borrowing at \$100,000 per annum on footpath replacement as approved by the Council from 2009 Annual Plan - \$800,000*
 - c. *Borrowing proposed in 2009-19 LTCCP for Administration Building works - \$750,000*
 - d. *Replacement of water reservoir - \$245,000*
6. *The submitter’s comments regarding pie graphs, is noted. Due to the level of disclosure in the respective Cost of Service Statements and Prospective Statement of Financial Performance it was felt that sufficient clarity of the points raised is already given, but graphs can be added if required.*

In relation to indicative rate increases comparisons were not included as the actual increases very much mirrored the overall

increase of 3.53%. If wide variations of the overall rate increase were anticipated these would have been included for additional clarity, but it was felt at this time that they added little to stakeholders knowledge. As in past years any ratepayers requiring an indicative rate cost for 2009/10 can ring our customer service staff and will be given an exact figure based on the draft LTCCP charges for the year.

Finally, with regard to additional information requested, I believe that the majority of these fall outside the realm of adding value/knowledge to the reader, and in some instances could be seen as commercially sensitive to the service provider.

The Asset Manager, Utilities makes the following observations in regard to the submitter's comments relating to the adequacy of the Gore township's water supply:

The water chart gives a summary of the water used for the past five years and the possible amount of water that could be consumed in 2019. It should be noted that while the 2006-2016 LTCCP showed a trend for water consumption declining, the reality is the opposite has occurred and there is an increased demand for water.

This is dependant on the number of new homes that will be built in the town over the next 10 years and the possible industry that may set up in the town. The Gore population is not growing, but we are seeing new homes being built with a smaller number of people living in each home.

Combine this with the possibility of a new dairy factory being built and the total consumption of 2,394,400m³ per year is a realistic figure. Allowing for a maximum 1500 m³ of water being used per day by the possible new dairy factory would mean an extra 400,000 m³ per year. This is based on a maximum amount of water that it could use. If an amount of 1000 m³ per day was used this would mean 270,000 m³ would be used for the year.

The projected use for water by 2019 amounts to 6,560 m³ per day. This is still within our current consented water take for the Gore Township. The majority of the increase is for the possibility of new industry. The current consent is 8,000 m³

The Gore District has had a history of water restrictions. With the new consent issued for Coopers well, the Council has to institute water conservation measures when the river flow is below 17 cubic meters per second. In acknowledgement of the historical water restrictions through summer the Council is looking for a new source of water. The recent drilling and test pumping of a new well within the Jacobstown field should allow the Council to take water up to the consented volume. The Council is planning to install a new pump in the new well at

Jacobstown in the 2009/10 year. The extraction of up to 3000 m³ per day from the Jacobstown field and up to 4000 m³ from Cooper's wells will give a secure supply of water over the summer period for Gore.

SUBMISSION NO. 41 – Gore District Youth Council

A submission from the Youth Council providing a youth prospective on the like of recycling, arts and heritage and the proposal for a hydro-slide at the Gore Aquatic Centre.

It is suggested that the profiling of the Youth Council and its role and gamut of activities can be contained within the new community development section of the 2012 LTCCP. By this stage it will be expected that the Youth Council will have a far better feel for its role and its connection with the Council and wider community.

The final suggestion in the submission about relaying Youth Council activities to local schools can be actioned by the Community Development Officer who attends the Youth Council meetings.

SUBMISSION NO. 42 – Robin McGowan

In response to the issues raised, the following comments are provided:

All activities of the Council are specific, whether it be water, drainage, solid waste, parks and reserves etc. i.e. each activity has a specific cost centre, and revenues and expenditures are captured accordingly. From a rating perspective it is effectively the Council's decision as to whether the net rates costs be recovered on a uniform basis or by specific charges to the differing rate categories as determined by the Council. Section 16 of the Local Government (Rating) Act is very specific in its wording and is replicated as follows:

16(1) A local authority may set a targeted rate for a function if the function is identified in its annual plan (LTCCP) as a function for which a targeted rate may be set.

The Council has clearly followed the approach given the decision to recover Parks and Reserves rates on a basis other than by a uniform charge on all separately used or inhabited parts of a rating unit i.e. every rateable unit does not pay the same charge.

Quite clearly the Parks and Reserves rate is not a uniform charge and is not part of the 30% maximum threshold.

Given that it is a targeted rate, section 18, as mentioned in the submission, is followed in that all the specific charges are itemised.

In relation to the submitter's comments on the Funding Impact Statement, I note the following:

a. Solid Waste Charge - \$48.83

This is a specific charge to those who receive the service. The balance of 50% of the total cost of Solid Waste Management is included in the rates collected from all ratepayers via the UAGC.

b. Community Halls

The rate of \$15,167 is collected specifically from the properties within the Hall Districts to offset maintenance/operating costs of dedicated halls. The \$12,000 is completely separate and is a discretionary grant fund available for special projects approved by the Council which cannot otherwise be funded.

c. Missing Grants

The interest cost and associated \$50,000 annual repayment of the loan form part of the costs of the Grants activity and are clearly shown in the Cost of Service Statement, however they are not grants, but repayments to our banking institution.

In relation to the submitter's other comments, I note that the comment on rates increases is factually incorrect. Below is a table of the overall rates increases proposed on a year by year basis:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Overall Increase	3.54%	4.48%	3.13%	9.19%	2.92%	1.58%	2.83%	2.35%	1.60%	2.30%

This is significantly impacted by the proposed introduction of recycling in 2013, but even with this, the previous years are not greatly above 3.93%, if at all.

SUBMISSION NO. 43 – The Community Trust of Southland

The principal issue promoted in this submission relates to the Council providing security of operational funding of Stage 3 of the Multisport Complex. This is a significant and somewhat controversial issue that will need to be thought through very carefully.

It is somewhat unusual for a request to provide operational funding and ultimately become the owner to come from a funder of the new asset, rather than the owner. However there are a number of aspects of this project that could be deemed to be less than conventional.

The Community Trust of Southland has quoted excerpts from the Gore Multisport Centre Charitable Trust's deed to support the contention that the Council needs to provide an Asset Management Plan for the new indoor sports centre and ongoing operational funding. Further, the Trust wishes to see the Council assume ownership of the Centre in the advent of dissolution of the Gore Multisport Centre Charitable Trust.

I can readily appreciate the Community Trust of Southland wishing to be proactive in securing a viable funding stream for the operation of the new indoor sports centre. Given the recent publicity about the predicament of Stadium Southland and its challenges to meet maintenance expenses in the foreseeable future, a solid funding base for the indoor sports centre needs to be secured for the community.

It is a pity however that the key funders behind the indoor sports centre in what is known as Stage 3 of the Multisport Complex did not fully resolve answers to these questions before advancing funds for the construction of the new asset.

Quoting the Trust Deed in isolation as has occurred in the submission is not altogether helpful. History will record that some time after the Trust Deed was put in place and following the construction of Stage 2 – being the Aquatic Centre – there were interest groups representing rural ratepayers in particular that made strident representations to the Council and the wider public about the need for the Council to stay well out of the Stage 3 project. These representations were conducted in a very public manner and would surely have come to the attention of major funders in regard to the pressure that the Council had been placed under to have no involvement in the project. I am unaware of any concerns expressed by the funders during the debate held around Stage 3 about the concern of the Council's non involvement.

Had the Council known that it would be expected to assume funding responsibility for the indoor sport centre's operation and ultimately become the owner, then it may well have had far more interest in the decision making process in respect of construction and design. Additionally some decisions taken by the Multisport Centre Charitable Trust in terms of an agreement reached with the Ministry of Education which will see free usage for local schools will no doubt have a large impact on the financial viability of the centre's operation.

Given the unknown level of financial exposure to ratepayers should the Trust's suggestion be accommodated, it is recommended that the Council seek further information on likely annual and future operating costs and consult with ratepayers before making a final decision on the Council's future involvement. No doubt dialogue would have to take place with the funders and the Charitable Trust if

the Council was agreeable to such an approach the draft LTCCP could be amended to note that there is an impending issue and that once full costs and future liabilities are determined a special consultative process will be conducted with ratepayers and the general public before a final decision is made.

SUBMISSION NO. 44 – Eastern Southland Federated Farmers

The General Manager Corporate Services comments as follows:

Arts and Heritage

- a. Existing revenue streams are from the Salvation Army, who are to vacate the premises at the end of 2013.
- b. Debt repayments have been approached on a global Council basis, with the bulk of repayments over the plan period being in the infrastructure area. Given the increase in rating required for this activity already, further costs in terms of debt repayment at this time were not seen to be fiscally responsible.
- c. Staff cost increases are simply a change of employment mode, with those previously employed as contractors/consultants being transferred to Council employment to better manage available resources.

Regulatory

- a. The additional costs are for the proposed review of the current District Plan, which under current legislation is required to be reviewed. This is to be funded from reserves collected in prior years.
- b. As I did not prepare the previous LTCCP I cannot comment on the makeup of the proposed debt repayment in that plan, but would confirm that the current repayment profile is set to repay the current borrowing for the District Plan without increasing the rate requirement for the District Plan activity.
- c. The largest expense items are consultants fees \$130,000, administration support charges \$212,000, regulatory control contracts \$76,000, agency fees \$42,000, vehicle costs \$32,000 and insurance \$21,000.

Aquatic Services

- a. It is noted that electricity savings are in fact \$149,373. Due to increased net staff costs the net reduction in rates funding for the Aquatic Centre's activity for 2009/10 is \$91,996.

- b. Factors impacting on the increased salary budget are as follows:
- (i) Salary budgets set in prior two years were clearly insufficient to cover the core staff compliment - \$40,000
 - (ii) Due to changes in the provision of learn to swim classes the Council has accepted taking on a full time swim instructor - \$25,000
 - (iii) Additional reception staffing required - \$20,000
 - (iv) Due to issues with sourcing supervisor staff at both aquatic facilities, some hourly rate increases have been required to entice staff - \$10,000
- c. Debt repayment as previously explained has been approached on a global basis.

Parks and Reserves

- (i) A breakdown of the major items in the Other Expenses line is as follows:

Share of Administration Support Charges	\$373,000
Vehicle Expenses	\$126,000
Maintenance Costs of Parks and Reserves	\$263,000
Rubbish Collection	\$ 41,000
Deferred Maintenance	\$ 76,000

It is noted that due to the long term nature of the deferred maintenance it has been funded by loan and is being repaid over a five year period.

- (ii) The increase is principally the deferred maintenance costs, along with an increase in the rubbish collection contract rates.
- (iii) Additional projects included in the 2015-16 capital expenditure are as follows:

New capital projects to be identified (and therefore subject to confirmation prior to acceptance)	\$ 60,000
Replacement of picnic tables, benches, rubbish bins and fences	\$ 25,000
Replacement of Dolamore Park workshop	\$ 27,000

Programmed systematic playground equipment replacement	\$ 35,000
General Asset renewal	\$ 25,000

SUBMISSION NO. 45 – Eastern Southland Chamber of Commerce

The submitter is seeking a one-off grant in the sum of \$1,500 to assist in the update of the GoreNZ.com website. The Chamber appears to have taken onboard the concerns expressed by the Council last year and considerably downsized its expectations in terms of Council funding. In its submission last year annual funding in the order of \$3,000-\$5,000 was sought. A one-off grant of \$1,500 to assist updating and modernising the website appears to be a more reasonable request to accommodate.

SUBMISSION NO. 46 – Waikaka District Hall Society Inc.

The submitter seeks to have all rural halls funded via a District wide rates collection. Presently funding assistance is given to rural halls through a rural halls sub-committee which administers a budget to all halls totalling \$12,000. This budget was increased from \$7,000 in 2008/09. It is fair to say that the rural halls do have a number of maintenance projects that required attention which the budget allocated to the rural halls sub-committee is unable to fully accommodate.

The budget of \$12,000 comes out of the uniform annual general charge and therefore all ratepayers in the District are equal contributors. If the Council believes further funding is warranted the simplest way of achieving this objective would appear to be increasing the budget allocated to the rural halls sub-committee.

SUBMISSION NO. 47 – Jeremy McPhail

The concerns raised in the submission regarding roading, are commented on:

Gravel Road Grading Frequency

Refer to the comments made on Submission No. 50.

- Although inspections by Council roading staff has found the condition of the submitter’s road to be out of specification occasionally it has generally been found to be in good order.
- Analysis of the grading records shows that the submitter’s road has been graded on 4 separate occasions, at various intervals ranging from 1 month to 4 months, in the year from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

- Hand patching of isolated potholes has also been recorded on this road to restore the road to within specification between grades.
- Dairy tankers operate in this locality and may be increasing wear and tear on the road.
- The submitter recently mentioned verbally that he has noted an improvement in the condition of his road recently.

Summary

Grading frequency rather than necessarily the condition of the road appears to be the main issue for the submitter.

The submission opposes the \$66,000 increase in rural roading rates proposed in the draft LTCCP.

SUBMISSION NO. 48 – Margaret Pullar

The Parks and Recreation Manager comments as follows:

With reference to Submission No. 36 for Active Transport/Physical Activity and their relationship to walking and cycling tracks.

Furthermore, this submission outlines how our District could “cash-in” on the explosion of rail/trail type facilities around the country. Not only would it be an asset for local communities, but would be a great reason for tourists to stop and spend more time and money in our District.

Both proposed routes have merit. The eastern route following the old railway line or State Highway to Mandeville, being of easy gradient would have appeal to the less fit participants. The more hilly Dolamore Park/Otamita Gorge route would be more physically challenging, but this route would have the added bonus of many historical interest sites along the way.

The Parks and Recreation Manager supports this concept and this submission.

SUBMISSION NO. 49 – Gerald and Janice Watson

The submitter expresses opposition to the proposed three bin kerbside recycling service. No further comment from staff is required.

SUBMISSION NO. 50 – Peter McIntyre

The concerns raised in the submission regarding rural gravel road maintenance are commented on by the Roading Manager:

1. Rural Gravel Road Maintenance Standard

The submitter asks “will we see an improvement in gravel road maintenance back to the previous standard of five years ago?”

Having been intimately involved in the maintenance of the Gore District roading network for the past 18 years I believe that I am qualified to say that there has been no significant reduction in the standard of maintenance of the gravel roads during the past five years.

However, this does not mean that there have not been changes in the way the gravel road maintenance is carried out. These changes have been made to ensure that the maintenance is carried out in a rational, efficient and cost effective manner.

The most significant change made was the introduction of maintenance groups for both sealed and gravel roads in the current road network maintenance contract when it was tendered in 2005. Gravel roads are grouped into three groups based on each roads traffic volume. Group 7 is the gravel road group with the highest traffic volumes (80 or more vehicles per day). Group 8 comprises roads with traffic volumes between 20 and 79 vpd and Group 9 roads have less than 20 vpd.

Traffic volume is a significant factor affecting the condition of roads. Weather also has a great influence but generally affects most roads in its path in a relatively equitable way. Topography is another factor which often affects sections of individual roads when combined with traffic. Therefore basing the level of service for gravel roads on traffic volume is a rational thing to do. Other road controlling authorities and the NZ Transport Agency do the same.

The maintenance groups are used to determine the frequency of inspection required for cyclic maintenance activities on the road network. Inspections of the roads need to be made by the contractor at sufficient intervals to enable faults to be repaired within the prescribed response time. There is a misconception by some that this means that all roads must be graded at predetermined intervals. What it does in fact mean is that the contractor needs to inspect often enough to ensure that faults do not remain longer than the specified response times. If faults are notified to the contractor either by the public through the Customer Service Request system or by the Council roading staff then a earlier response time is required.

Getting back to the submitters question and a number of the points he has raised in support of his question it appears that it is this perceived reduction in grading frequency that is his main issue. It is this perception which is shared by some others that has led to the introduction of a potential additional \$150,000 into the 2009/10 rural gravel road budget. If there is a groundswell of opinion that the

inspection frequencies are insufficient to achieve the desired level of service then this amount will be used to bring some of the roads currently in Group 8 into Group 7 thus increasing the inspection frequency for these roads.

2. Grading Frequency Impacts

My comments on the individual impacts of the perceived reduced grading frequency are as follows:

2.1 Local grading frequency

All of the roads in the immediate vicinity of the submitter are Group 8 roads. The number of grades (not inspections) carried out on these roads over the past year (1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009) has ranged from 7 on Benio Road to 2 on Cunningham Road. Three grades were carried out on the submitters own road.

2.2 Road Width

The road width on Dynes Road was specified as being 4.2 metres at the start of the contract and is being maintained at approximately this width. This is narrow but the road has a very low traffic volume and does not warrant widening at this stage. Apart from the cost of the initial widening there is also the ongoing extra cost of wider grading and greater quantities of gravel required when remetalling.

2.3 Large Potholes

Benio Road, especially, frequently has large potholes develop. This has been recognised by the contractor as can be seen by the greater frequency of grading carried out on this road. Frequent large potholes were also a problem, until recently, at the ends of the single lane bridges on the roads in this area. The Council has recently permanently removed these by sealing the bridge approaches and intersections with the highway.

2.4 Benio Road Corrugations

The steep hill section of Benio Road. leading away from the State Highway is extremely difficult to maintain corrugation free for any length of time. This is not a new problem but is being exacerbated by the increased milk tanker traffic. It is therefore on the list of sites which will be traction sealed in the near future.

2.5 Windrows

Unfortunately on occasions gravel roads are likely to have temporary windrows at the edges in places. The contractor is however putting significant effort into minimising these wherever possible. It should also be remembered that the motorist does have a responsibility to drive at an appropriate speed for the conditions.

Summary

The frequency and standard of grading being carried out in Benio and other areas meets the current contract requirements. The outcome of these requirements is similar to previous contracts but is achieved in a more cost effective manner. The NZ Transport Agency audit team was satisfied with the level of service observed on gravel roads during its recent technical audit.

An increased level of service, if deemed necessary by the Councillors, will cost more and provision for this possible increase has been made in the draft LTCCP budget.

SUBMISSION NO. 51 – R C Culbert

The submitter expresses opposition to the proposed three bin kerbside recycling service. No further comment from staff is required.

SUBMISSION NO. 52 – Ralph Beale

The submitter expresses some reservations about the proposed three bin kerbside recycling service. No further comment from staff is required.

SUBMISSION NO. 53 – John Taylor

The submitter expresses support for the submission of Mr John Adams. Please refer to staff comments made under the submission of John Adams, reference number 21.