



REGENERATE CHRISTCHURCH MEDIA RELEASE

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Public notification of Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor Draft Regeneration Plan

Regenerate Christchurch will publicly notify the draft Regeneration Plan for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (OARC) from 14 November and will accept written comments up to and including 19 December. It will be the last public engagement required under the Greater Christchurch Regeneration Act ahead of the draft plan being finalised.

Chief Executive Ivan Iafeta says: “We appreciate that the end of the year is a busy time, and we want community groups and organisations that might be interested in providing comment to know this is coming up, so they are organised when the draft plan is notified.”

From 14 November, the draft Regeneration Plan will be available on the Regenerate Christchurch website. Hard copies will be available for reading at Regenerate Christchurch (Level 1, Building 2, 181 High Street, Christchurch), as well as Waimakariri District Council, Selwyn District Council and Christchurch City Council offices, service centres and libraries. The public will be able to provide written comment to Regenerate Christchurch online and via email or post.

At the same time, Regenerate Christchurch will invite written comment on proposals to exclude the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor regeneration area from the Land Use Recovery Plan (LURP) and the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan (CCRP), through a partial revocation process.

If approved, this would enable the Regeneration Plan to be the sole Regeneration/Recovery Plan applying to the OARC. The LURP and CCRP would continue to apply everywhere other than the OARC area, where relevant.

Mr Iafeta says Regenerate Christchurch had originally anticipated a six-week period for the public to provide written comment on the draft plan.

“We considered whether it was reasonable to expect people to provide comment during the Christmas/New Year holiday period or extend the notification process into 2019.

“We know the community has appreciated the extensive amount of consultation to date and we are confident this period will provide sufficient time for people to provide comment.”

Mr Iafeta says once written comments have been received, Regenerate Christchurch will consider those and finalise the Regeneration Plan before seeking consent from Ōtākaro Limited to submit it to the Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration.

Once all comments are received, Regenerate Christchurch will know how long it will take to finalise the plan and it is committed to submitting it to the Minister as soon as possible.





Legislation requires Regenerate Christchurch to obtain the views of the parties listed in Section 29 of the Greater Christchurch Regeneration Act (Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Ōtākaro Limited) before publicly notifying the draft plan. That process has been completed and a concise statement of the views of those parties will be provided with public notification of the plan (in accordance with the Act).

“We saw an opportunity to accelerate the process by seeking their views in parallel with completing the draft plan. We have greatly appreciated all parties’ support for this approach which has been developed to support completion of the public notification period before Christmas,” Mr Lafeta says.

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BACKGROUND TO THE ŌTĀKARO AVON RIVER CORRIDOR REGENERATION PLAN PROCESS

Regenerate Christchurch, which was established in April 2016, is responsible for developing the Regeneration Plan for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor and has considered more than 5,000 ideas submitted by the community, as well as surveys, technical reports and studies.

After the publication in October 2017 of 10 possible combinations of land uses for the area, public feedback identified strong common preferences which informed the development of a refined shortlist that featured in a public exhibition earlier this year.

During the five-week exhibition period in May and June, Regenerate Christchurch recorded more than 23,000 engagements with members of the public. This included more than 9,800 face-to-face interactions, approximately 3,700 completed surveys, and more than 10,000 visits to its online exhibition and engagement pages.

Feedback on the exhibition and independent research by Nielsen - a leading global information and measurement company - identified an overwhelmingly positive public response to the refined shortlist, with 89 percent of Greater Christchurch residents positive about the land uses and 91 percent rating the 11-kilometre “Green Spine” central corridor positively.

The Green Spine will be up to 150 metres wide on each side of the Ōtākaro Avon River, connecting the city to New Brighton. It will incorporate walking paths, nature trails, cycle ways, community spaces such as playgrounds, picnic spots, barbecue areas, coffee stops, large areas of ecological restoration, wetlands to improve stormwater management, and will support better access to the river.

For more information please contact:

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