

Ashburton District Council  
Attention: Mayor and Councillors

## **Draft Long-Term Plan 2021-31 submission**

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Ashburton District Council on the hours and hard work that has gone into the draft Long-Term Plan, and thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Neumanns Tyres is a local business that was started by Len Neumann, my father, in 1945. We have been servicing residents of the Ashburton District for over 75 years.

Over these years, the footpaths on Wills Street outside Neumanns Tyres have been dug up or trenched in order to allow for cable laying, as well as sewerage and water reticulation maintenance. While we are grateful that this work has been carried out, the footpaths have not been returned to their original condition and in some places the surface is sunken and undulating. Over time this has become a health and safety hazard, and in working hours our staff have seen children, elderly and those on walkers or scooters stumble and trip on the unstable ground. These footpaths are also widely used outside of our working hours, by patrons of the Regent Cinema and the Ashburton Trust Event Centre.

We are proposing to beautify the area of footpath alongside our business, in line with the new CBD upgrade project, and request that Council include this as a project in the Long-Term Plan. Rather than the normal material used for footpaths, we believe that laying tiles here will improve the ease of further upgrades or maintenance work, as these tiles can be easily picked up and laid back down when works are completed. We had also entertained the idea of branding some tiles with advertising or history of the street, to create Ashburton's own 'walk of fame'.

This proposal was discussed with Neil McCann, Group Manager of Infrastructure Services, who organised staff to come and look at our footpaths and assess whether or not this project would be feasible. From my understanding, there was no reason found as to why this footpath would not be appropriate, and Council staff thought the project was an interesting proposal.

If the proposal is accepted by Council, the project could be, if necessary, funded by Neumanns Tyres and the infrastructure vested in Council. We would be happy to comply with any Council requirements, such as what types of materials should be used. This would be a benefit to the community, as there will be improved health and safety as well as beautification, possibly at no charge to ratepayers.

The project would contribute to Council's community outcome of "a district of great spaces and places".

I have seen similar footpaths in other places, and it enhances the overall look of the area. Please see the images attached as an example.

Thank you for your time, I look forward to your feedback on this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

**Ian Neumann**  
**Director**

### **Example – Framingham Winery, Blenheim**



## Example - Tweed heads, Australia

