

The Ashburton Motorcycle Park, in conjunction with the Ashburton Hakatere River Trail Committee have prepared the below submission to be considered by Council as part of the Long-Term Plan 2021-31.

The community volunteer-based groups that comprise this committee provide countless hours towards the progression of walking, cycling, horse-riding, 4WD and motorbike tracks that follow the course of the Ashburton River. This group originally had strong support from council when the committee was formed 10 years ago, including a robust and dedicated budget allocated specifically to these developments.

We believe Council recommitting to this time-proven successful and popular development would have immense benefits for a vast portion of the community, as such aligning with the values in the Long-Term Plan as detailed below:

- Residents will achieve a sense of community and belonging through the opportunity to contribute to the development of a valuable community asset that is the riverside tracks.
- The riverside tracks form part of our district's great spaces and places - they are the ultimate natural-environment recreational space to assist in promoting a healthy lifestyle.
- Many of the groups working alongside the river have a strong environmental focus. Through native planting we are helping to promote a sustainable resource that can be enjoyed by many generations to come.
- The tracks we have developed attract visitors to our area thus assisting with the economic development of the district. Cycling in particular is enjoying a significant increase in popularity amongst several different age groups nationwide with multiple regions already recognising this and working to support it. We believe this market is currently untapped within Mid-Canterbury as a whole.

We believe the preceding combined efforts of Council and volunteer groups should be preserved and further enhanced by way of an ongoing partnership and maintenance program. The success of this partnership will require a financial commitment from Council, in conjunction with transparent and open communication between the groups.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission, and trust Council will consider all points with the best interests of the community in mind.

The Ashburton Motorcycle Park is made up of a small team of volunteers that do approximately 15 – 20 hours per week, maintaining the tracks and the carpark area. That includes keeping the tracks maintained to a safe standard, weed control, rubbish collection from the carpark and planting tree cuttings from the Ecan Nursey for noise protection.

The bike park has regular visits of about 200 people per week. We have a donation box, but the money falls short on what it actually takes to pay insurance & machinery hire. We encourage the Council to work with us to help maintain a public asset.

This submission is against the current 10-year plan, as it does not include the Ashburton Motorcycle Park or any of the River Trail group; as that is what we would like to resolve.

For any further correspondence please contact Matthew Curtis,

This is a written only submission