

# ***Submission***

## ***Draft Canterbury Regional Public Transport Plan 2018-2028***

PREPARED BY: Ashburton District Council      SUBMITTED TO: Environment Canterbury  
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### **Introduction**

Ashburton District Council welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2018-2028. This submission is from the Ashburton District Council (Council) highlighting issues as they relate to this district.

Located between Selwyn and Timaru Districts respectively, we have more than 34,100<sup>1</sup> residents living in our district, with our main town of Ashburton accounting for 19,280 or 56% of residents. The rest of our residents live rurally or in smaller towns or villages.

Ashburton District is one of New Zealand's fastest growing rural districts with a population increase of 22% since 2006 (approximately 2% pa). This period of rapid but consistent growth follows an earlier period of little to moderate growth. Recent growth has occurred in both urban and rural parts of the district and is considered to have been driven primarily by strong growth in the local rural economy.

While at present the district has no public transport system in place, Ashburton District Council considers that there may be public transport opportunities in the future that could be considered, particularly for the Ashburton urban area. Given that Ashburton District sits outside of the area known in the plan as 'Greater Christchurch' it is likely that any public transport systems for this district would be modelled on the approach taken within the Timaru District.

Ashburton District Council wishes to make the following comments on the draft plan.

### **1. Overall Proposal**

Ashburton District Council supports the proposed Regional Public Transport Plan.

### **2. Proposed Funding Share**

Ashburton District Council supports the proposed funding share outlined in the Regional Public Transport Plan of a split between central government grants, Environment Canterbury targeted rates and fares.

### **3. Zero Emissions Vehicles**

Ashburton District Council supports, in principal, the proposal to transition to using zero emissions vehicles for public transport.

This support is offered in principal only, as Ashburton District Council believes that the balance in transitioning towards zero emissions vehicles will be in ensuring the network remains cost- effective and efficient.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Statistics New Zealand Population Estimates 30 June 2017

#### **4. Miscellaneous**

Ashburton District Council is particularly interested in the public transport solutions that are to be trialled in Timaru.

Ashburton District Council would like to be kept informed of the results from the Timaru trial.

Ashburton District Council would like to be considered for future public transport pilot programmes, particularly for the Ashburton urban area, should the results from the Timaru trial be favourable.

Ashburton District Council believes that consideration should be given in the future to a daily Ashburton-Timaru and Ashburton-Christchurch public transport system to cater for the working population who commute into, and out from, the district.

Ashburton District Council thanks Environment Canterbury for the opportunity to submit on the Draft Canterbury Regional Public Transport Plan 2018-2028

**Ashburton District Council does wish to be heard in support of this submission.**



HAMISH RIACH  
**Chief Executive**



DONNA FAVEL  
**Mayor**