

HAVE YOUR SAY!

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The regional council is **thinking about making bus trips free!**
But we need to tell them how we feel about it because there are 3 options

Option 1 Free travel for: Community Service Card holders
Under 25s
Students
Total Mobility Card Holders

Option 2 \$2 flat fare for everyone

Option 3 Tertiary students pay the equivalent of a child fare

HOW to have your say

Online

- Click the link of our facebook page
- Or find haveyoursay.ecan.govt.nz/bus-fare-structure online

Write it down

- Put your name and contact details on a piece of paper
- Write down which option you want, and why
 - Send it to Annual Plan submission,
Freepost 1201, Environment Canterbury, PO Box
345, Christchurch 8140
 - Or leave it with someone from [Anglican Advocacy](#)
and we will make sure it ends up in the right place!

Tell us your story - Tell us what you think. What has your experience been? What would cheaper fares mean to you? We'll add your voice to our submission!

WHAT could I say in my submission?

- ✓ You support Option 1 (free fares for target groups), because ... *describe the impact this would have on you, friends/family, your city and the environment*
- ✓ You could also consider saying:
 - Even if you seldom use buses, you support your rates being spent on free fares because of the benefit to other people and the climate.
 - To further assist people with disabilities, you'd like to see Total Mobility Card holders' support people also included in free fares.
 - To make access to services fair, and because the cost of living is going crazy, you support people with community service cards being included.

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Environment Canterbury is proposing a trial of Free Fares on public transport

Submissions open until 3rd April

Why We Care

Transport is at the heart of emissions, climate change, and congestion. And transport also has a huge impact on loneliness, isolation, poverty, and health.

How to make a submission

The easiest way is online

1. Go to haveyoursay.ecan.govt.nz/bus-fare-structure
2. Click 'make a submission' and answer the questions

In whatever way you submit, write that you'd like to speak in person. Double the impact double the fun!

The Cost and Benefit

On the Environment Canterbury website there is a great tool for seeing what the cost will be to you! However, our focus is on climate change, and the impact this will have on the vulnerable.

Free fares will reduce emissions and take cars off the road. Public transport is a key factor in our climate change strategy. We need bold action! But free fares are also about culture shift. Free fares for under 25s gets a whole generation onto public transport.

So we support option 1 Free fares for community service and total mobility card holders, students, and under 25s

- The lack of affordable transport impacts health, education, employment, social life and wellbeing.
- Low-income households can spend 28% of their income on transport.
- Māori and Pasifika are twice as likely to lack access to a GP because of transport.
- High levels of car dependence in society can result in inequity and disadvantage

There will be some cost to free fares, but a greater cost in doing nothing.

Staying in one place is bad for depression. The doctor said I should do things. But I can't because I don't have money – *Young person in Christchurch*

We want to make the best choice for the climate, but that's hard when it's so expensive – *Kim*

Free bus rides would be much easier because we wouldn't stress over the bus fare to get to school – *A Whaanga*

For more information, or help making a submission find us at www.anglicanadvocacy.org.nz

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