

May 2023

To Christchurch City Council

Please find attached DPA’s submission on Athol Waimairi Intersection improvements

For any further inquiries, please contact:

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**Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly NZ**

**We work on systemic change for the equity of disabled people**

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a not-for-profit pan-impairment Disabled People’s Organisation run by and for disabled people.

**We recognise:**

* Māori as Tangata Whenua and [Te Tiriti o Waitangi](https://www.archives.govt.nz/discover-our-stories/the-treaty-of-waitangi) as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand;
* disabled people as experts on their own lives;
* the [Social Model of Disability](https://www.odi.govt.nz/guidance-and-resources/guidance-for-policy-makes/) as the guiding principle for interpreting disability and impairment;
* the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html) as the basis for disabled people’s relationship with the State;
* the [New Zealand Disability Strategy](https://www.odi.govt.nz/nz-disability-strategy/) as Government agencies’ guide on disability issues; and
* the [Enabling Good Lives Principles](https://www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/about-egl/egl-approach/principles/), [Whāia Te Ao Mārama: Māori Disability Action Plan](https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/whaia-te-ao-marama-2018-2022-maori-disability-action-plan), and [Faiva Ora: National Pasifika Disability Disability Plan](https://www.moh.govt.nz/notebook/nbbooks.nsf/0/5E544A3A23BEAECDCC2580FE007F7518/$file/faiva-ora-2016-2021-national-pasifika-disability-plan-feb17.pdf) as avenues to disabled people gaining greater choice and control over their lives and supports.

**We drive systemic change through:**

* **Leadership:** reflecting the collective voice of disabled people, locally, nationally and internationally.
* **Information and advice:** informing and advising on policies impacting on the lives of disabled people.
* **Advocacy:** supporting disabled people to have a voice, including a collective voice, in society.
* **Monitoring:** monitoring and giving feedback on existing laws, policies and practices about and relevant to disabled people.

# The Submission

DPA welcomes this opportunity to engage on the Athol Waimairi intersection improvements.

DPA notes that this comes in the wake of the recent consultation run by Environment Canterbury around the Orbiter route in the Ilam area.

DPA is pleased to see that there are several improvements being planned for the intersection including the installation of a raised safety platform on Waimairi Road just south of the Athol Terrace intersection and extending the kerb on the Athol/Waimari/Homestead intersection, which will all be useful fixes from an accessibility perspective.

However, there are several issues that need to be addressed as part of these improvements.

**Accessibility of raised crossing at Waimari Road**

DPA is pleased to see that there will be a raised pedestrian crossing placed at Waimairi Road just south of the Athol Terrace intersection.

However, we do have one concern around wheelchair and mobility aid users having a clear view of the road before crossing at this intersection and this is something we hope can be addressed by Council.

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| **Recommendation 1:** that the CCC ensure that the landscaped portion of the raised crossing on Waimairi Road is safe for wheelchair and mobility aid users. |

DPA would also welcome the installation of audio signals at the raised crossing as this would benefit blind and low vision people as well as every pedestrian in terms of enhancing the safety of it.

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| **Recommendation 2:** that the CCC install audio signals at the raised crossing on Waimari Road. |

**Removal of parking spaces**

DPA notes the proposal to remove seven car parking spaces to make way for the new bus stops and crossing.

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| **Recommendation 3:** that the CCC ensure that if any mobility parks are removed that a replacement mobility park or parks be created within reasonable distance of the Athol Waimairi intersection. |

**Accessible bus shelters**

DPA notes the proposal to install a new bus shelter at 73 Waimairi Road and to move the bus stop on the east side of Waimairi Road southwards, enabling passengers to enjoy a safer and more comfortable pick up, drop off and waiting experience.

DPA hopes that all bus stop users will be warm, dry, comfortable, shielded from the elements and be able to enjoy adequate lighting at night.

From an accessibility perspective, having sufficient space for wheelchair and mobility aid users to seat themselves is important.

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| **Recommendation 4:** that the new bus shelters on Waimairi Road be fully accessible to disabled people. |