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To: Christchurch City Council on the Roto Kohatu Reserve Management Plan

## Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

Contact:

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# Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

The Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a pan-disability disabled person’s organisation that works to realise an equitable society, where all disabled people (of all impairment types and including women, Māori, Pasifika, young people) are able to direct their own lives. DPA works to improve social indicators for disabled people and for disabled people to be recognised as valued members of society. DPA and its members work with the wider disability community, other DPOs, government agencies, service providers, international disability organisations, and the public by:

* telling our stories and identifying systemic barriers
* developing and advocating for solutions
* celebrating innovation and good practice

# The submission

DPA welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Roto Kohatu Reserve Management Plan. Outdoor recreation and sports bring communities closer together, enhancing the health and wellbeing of people and as stated this reserve is getting more popular with water sports, user groups and the public. That is why we would like to ensure that everyone can enjoy this reserve in an inclusive way.

**The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**

The UNCRPD Articles most relevant to our submission are:

* Article 4.3 Involving disabled people and our organisations in decisions that affect us
* Article 5: Equality and non-discrimination
* Article 7: Children with disabilities
* Article 9: Accessibility
* Article 19: Living independently and being included in the community
* Article 20: Personal mobility
* Article 30: Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure, and sport

The New Zealand Government policies and strategies which are relevant to this submission are as follows:

New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026:

* Outcome 5 - Accessibility

# DPA’s recommendations

**Recommendation 1**: DPA recommends that the new entrance ways be accessible for all people and types of vehicles including mobility vans for wheelchair users, amongst others.

**Recommendation 2:** DPA recommends that both the pedestrian access and walking tracks on the lakes circuit walk provide for universal accessibility as this will enable wheelchair users and people who use mobility aids such as walking frames or crutches the ability to access both the reserve and walks. The pedestrian access and walking tracks should also incorporate tactile strips to ensure that blind and low vision people can successfully navigate around the walkway system

**Recommendation 3:** DPA recommends that seating be placed at strategic points along the walking tracks and by the lake of varying heights (either higher or lower) and should include armrests so that people with mobility impairments, children and older people can easily get in or out of the seats. This will enable parents/whanau to be included in their children’s aquatic sports.

**Recommendation 4:** DPA recommends that picnic areas include wheelchair friendly picnic tables and other accessible outdoor furniture, such as barbeques, which will ensure that everyone is able to access these facilities.

**Recommendation 5**: DPA recommends mobility carparks are put in place across all the areas where car parks are proposed.

**Recommendation 6**: DPA recommends that accessible toilets with changing spaces and wet floor showers be made available so that disabled people can have access to them. These should be based in the shared sports facility and in strategic locations around the reserve.

**Recommendation 7**:DPA recommends that the shared use sports facility is accessible for all and is built according to universal design standards. This will ensure that everyone can be included in all activities which may be held in the sports facility, and this includes either as spectators or participants in sporting events, or other activities.

**Recommendation 8:** DPA recommends that if signage needs upgrading around the reserve that changes be made to ensure that the size of traditional signage be adjusted so that print, height and colour contrast are fully considered, especially for blind and low vision users. We would like to encourage the development of signage in accessible formats as well (i.e., in New Zealand Sign Language, Easy Read, Te Reo and ethnic languages) which can be done via the use of electronic apps where people can access this information via a QR code.

**Recommendation 9:** DPA recommends the placement of appropriate safety barriers on the jetty to reduce the risk of people accidentally falling into the water with appropriate safety signage also added.

**Recommendation 10:** DPA recommends that the use of e-scooters, bicycles, skateboards and roller skates be prohibited on the various pathways and around the park in order to prevent accidents from happening. If people need to come on their bicycles, e-scooters or other non-essential mobility devices, there should be suitable storage space provided either at or near the shared space facility.

**Recommendation 11:** DPA recommends that, in line with Article 4.3 of the UNCRPD [see above], that the CCC involve disabled people and our organisations, which include DPA Christchurch, in a co-design process around the development of this site.

# Conclusion

DPA Christchurch would like to be involved in further discussions around the Roto Kohatu Reserve Management Plan. We believe that everything should be done to ensure accessibility for everyone, including the disabled communities of Ōtautahi and Aotearoa, who will visit and enjoy this reserve and sports facility. Both our Christchurch Kaituitui and Regional Policy Advisor are available to be reached out to on this [please see front cover for their contact details].