June 2024

**To Christchurch City Council**

Please find attached DPA’s submission on the McLeans Grasslands Reserve Pre- Draft Management Plan

For any further inquiries, please contact:

Chris Ford

Policy Advisor – Southern and Central

policy@dpa.org.nz

**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 drive systemic change through:**

**Rangatiratanga / Leadership**: reflecting the collective voice of disabled people, locally, nationally and internationally.

**Pārongo me te tohutohu / Information and advice**: informing and advising on policies impacting on the lives of disabled people.

**Kōkiri / Advocacy**: supporting disabled people to have a voice, including a collective voice, in society.

**Aroturuki / Monitoring**: monitoring and giving feedback on existing laws, policies and practices about and relevant to disabled people.

# The Submission

DPA welcomes this opportunity to give feedback to Christchurch City Council (CCC) on the McLeans Grassland Reserve Draft Management Plan.

At the outset, we wish to acknowledge the role of the CCC in bringing project plans, such as these, to the Council’s Accessibility Advisory Group for input as well.

Disabled people have an equitable right to enjoy nature and the great outdoors on the same basis as non-disabled people. So, it is vital that CCC maintains access to the McLeans Grasslands Reserve while respecting the site's ecologically sensitive nature.

DPA considers that the best way to do so would be through constructing an accessible boardwalk and/or elevated viewing platform that would be especially useful for people with mobility impairments and blind and low vision people. Either of these options would mean that any endangered wildlife that inhabits the reserve could be safely and respectfully viewed by everyone, including disabled people, even if this is from a distance on a viewing platform.

DPA recommends that mobility parking spaces be maintained in the parking spaces near the site too. Also, the placement of any vehicle parks should continue to respect the ecological nature of the reserve.

DPA recommends that disabled people and disability organisations are involved as key stakeholders in any further engagement around the management plan as it progresses.

|  |
| --- |
| **Recommendation 1:** that the CCC construct anaccessible boardwalk and/or elevated viewing platform to provide inclusive access for everyone, including disabled people, to the reserve. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Recommendation 2:** that mobility parking spaces are maintained in the parking spaces near the site. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Recommendation 3:** that disabled people and disability organisations are involved as key stakeholders in any further engagement around the management plan. |