September 2024

**To Christchurch City Council**

Please find attached on Richmond Hill Road Changes

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/%24file/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:**

**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 the opportunity to feedback on the proposed changes to Richmond Hill Road.

DPA supports the changes and accepts the rationale for their being made in terms of affording greater space to emergency services and other vehicles wanting to access the street.

DPA notes that Richmond Hill Road is narrow and that in some places the footpath is at the same height as the road. This creates a safety hazard for pedestrians who are forced to walk on the road to get around parked vehicles.

We emphasise that everyone needs to be able to access streets, roads and footpaths safely and this includes disabled people.

We endorse the proposal to have yellow no parking lines painted onto the street to enable a greater, safer space to be created between pedestrians and the road itself while encouraging residents to park in more appropriate spaces.

However, we make the following recommendations:

**Recommendation 1:** that the CCC review these changes within the next two years with key stakeholders, including residents and emergency services, to check whether the changes have achieved their aims.

**Recommendation 2:** that the CCC encourages residents to actively manage hedges and other vegetation at the boundaries of their properties so that they don't hinder access to pathways for pedestrians, including disabled people.