

## **Generation Zero Comments on the Ecan Long Term Plan**

### **Public Transport options:**

- We do not support any of the given options on the basis that all three include a reduction in the Total Mobility subsidy and the removal of six bus routes, and therefore do not actually present a genuine choice.
- Ask ECan to provide more information on patronage data, projections and the effects of fare increases to help the public make an informed submission.
- Reject the discontinuation of the six lowest performing bus routes and the increase in bus fares. Ask ECan to re-evaluate the farebox recovery policy (particularly in light of the current Government's more favourable stance towards public transport) and to start recognising public transport as an investment with numerous social benefits and long-term economic benefits, not to mention a crucial part of reducing transport-related carbon emissions.
- Reject the proposed reduction to the maximum Total Mobility subsidy per vehicle trip from \$35 to \$30. Services for those with disabilities should not be cut unless viable alternatives are offered and until public transport is made more accessible to all.

### **Hazards, Risk & Resilience:**

- Support the new Climate Change Integration programme, but it **MUST** also include a focus on long term mitigation goals and receive substantially more funding. ECan should be taking a much more proactive approach to reducing its own carbon footprint, while also exploring a mitigation strategy for the region. If the required data is not already available from central government agencies, part of the programme should be collaborating with city council and territorial authorities to establish a greenhouse gas inventory for the Canterbury region.
- Ask ECan to develop this programme further into a climate change portfolio alongside its other five major portfolios.
- Challenge the assumption that "the Government's stand on the statutory role for regional councils for climate change will remain as 'adaptation' to the effects of climate change, and not 'mitigation' of greenhouse gas emissions" given the implementation of a Zero Carbon Bill is underway. This legislation is likely to have implications for regional councils across the country. For example as the entity responsible for delivering public transport services in Canterbury, ECan would be required to contribute towards the reduction of transport-related greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Transport & Urban Development:**

- Support freight mode shift from road to rail and shipping as part of the Regional Transport programme, as this shift will reduce our transport-related carbon emissions.