Submission on Proposed Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan

Form 5: Submissions on a Publicly Notified Proposed Policy Statement or Regional Plan under Clause 6 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991

Return your signed submission by 5.00pm Friday 5 October 2012 to:
Freepost 1201 Proposed Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan
Environment Canterbury
P O Box 345
Christchurch 8140

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Full Name: GRANT NELSON
Organisation: THE GAMA FOUNDATION
Postal Address: PO BOX 6086
Contact name and postal address for service of person making submission (if different from above):

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Phone (Wrk): SAME
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Trade Competition

Pursuant to Clause 6 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, a person who could gain an advantage in trade competition through the submission may make a submission only if directly affected by an effect of the proposed policy statement or plan that:

- adversely affects the environment; and
- does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

Please tick the sentence that applies to you:

☐ I could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission; or
☐ I could gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

If you have ticked this box please select one of the following:

☐ I am directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that adversely affects the environment and does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.
☐ I am not directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that adversely affects the environment and does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

Signature: ____________________________ Date: 28/9/2012

(Signature of person making submission or person authorised to sign on behalf of person making the submission)

Please note:

1. all information contained in a submission under the Resource Management Act 1991, including names and addresses for service, becomes public information.

☐ I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission; or
☐ I do wish to be heard in support of my submission; and if so,
☐ If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.
Add further pages as required – please initial any additional pages.
LAND AND WATER REGIONAL PLAN

The Land and Water Regional Plan has been organised by farmers for the benefit of farmers and community requirements for water have only been given token recognition.

I do not believe that the Plan represents the wishes of the people of Canterbury and it is not in the best interests of future generations. A report by Lincoln University titled "Public Opinion on Water Issues and Management in Canterbury" gives details of what the public really want.

The top priority should have been for the 500,000 people living in Canterbury to continue to have a good supply of clean, safe and inexpensive water. Those wanting to make money out of water by using it for irrigation and intensive farming, should only have it available to them as long as there is no deterioration in the quality and quantity of water available to Canterbury Residents.

The residents of Springston, Dunsandel, Darfield and other rural communities know what it is like to suffer a lot of illness due to drinking water contaminated by intensive farming. They also know what it is like to face higher rates and other costs required to deal with the quality and quantity of water problems which arise. The rapid increase in irrigation in Canterbury over the past two decades and plans to double the area under irrigation will make the present situation much worse. It takes decades for aquifers to become contaminated and depleted so by the time the rest of the population is similarly affected and wakes up to what is happening, it will be too late to do anything about the situation. Damage to aquifers cannot be reversed and it will not be possible to take water away from those who have been allocated it.

The efficient use of water can only be achieved by metering the water used by those who make money from it and then charging them for each litre of water they use. The proceeds could then be used for trying to deal with the environmental damage being done and could also be used to compensate urban residents for the costs, losses and negative impacts imposed on them.