

Gay Gibson

From: WET Manager
Sent: Friday, 21 March 2014 9:11 a.m.
To: Mailroom Mailbox
Subject: TRIM: submission - Variation 1 to the proposed Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan
Attachments: 2014 March WET Submission LWRP Variation 1.pdf
Categories: Purple Category
HP TRIM Record Number: C14C/43397

Please find attached a submission from the Waihora Ellesmere Trust.

Regards
Adrienne

WET Manager
Waihora Ellesmere Trust General Manager

021 052 9720



Submission on Proposed Variation 1 to the Proposed Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan

Name: Waihora Ellesmere Trust
Address: PO Box 198, Tai Tapu, 7645
Phone: 021 052 9720
Email: manager@wet.org.nz
Contact: Adrienne Lomax

We do not wish to be heard

Waihora Ellesmere Trust (WET) is a community organisation dedicated to the improvement of the health and biodiversity of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and its catchment. WET was formed in 2003 to implement a community strategy, developed as a result of community consultation over two years, with a focus on raising awareness of the values associated with Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and promoting best management practices to benefit the health and biodiversity of the Lake and its catchment. Our vision statement and the Objects of the Trust are given in Appendix A.

Our Submission:

WET is generally supportive of the proposed Variation 1 to the Land and Water Regional Plan.

With the complexity of the issues in Selwyn-Waihora, WET welcomes the decision to create rules specific to each sub-regional area. The health of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere is a function of the whole catchment so it is pleasing to see an integrated catchment approach.

This approach is entirely consistent with the objects of the Trust (Appendix A) in seeking to improve the health of the Lake while acknowledging the economic value of farming to the area and the needs of the community.

Section 11 – Selwyn Waihora

Page 4-2

Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere is also recognised as a nationally significant wetland for both wildlife and wildlife viewing. It supports a rich biological environment including native and introduced species.

Adjustment sought:

We submit that the Lake is internationally recognised for these values.

Rationale:

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Excerpts from the Joint Management Plan (2005), prepared by the Department of Conservation and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu support our submission:

Te Waihora is an important site to Ngāi Tahu as a mahinga kai and nationally and internationally important to New Zealand for its wildlife and conservation values. (Preface)

Internationally, Te Waihora is important for many migratory wader bird species which visit the wetland, as well as for threatened indigenous species, the diversity and high proportionate population of the bird species it supports and for the many indigenous fish species it supports. (Introduction, p.7)

Bird watching/ ornithology

Te Waihora provides an internationally important area for bird watching because of the potential to view relatively rare, mostly migratory, bird species. (p.80)

Policies

11.4.3 Establish and maintain a Cultural Landscape/Values Management Area that encompasses Te Waihora, its margins, wetlands, springs and tributaries to:

(a) recognise the nature, concentration, networks and significance to Ngāi Tahu of sites and values within the Area; and (b) provide for the relationship of Ngāi Tahu with Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere.

11.4.4 Manage the Cultural Landscape/Values Management Area:

(a) as one integrated freshwater mahinga kai system with outstanding values; (b) to protect mahinga kai, wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga; (c) to restore the health of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere; and (d) to recognise the cultural and ecological sensitivity of the Area to discharges of contaminants and the taking and use of fresh water.

WET supports the creation of the Cultural Landscape/Values Management Area, recognising the Lake as a 'Jewel in the Crown' of natural resources in Selwyn District.

11.4.12 Reduce discharges of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and microbial contaminants from farming activities in the catchment by requiring farming activities to:

(a) Not exceed the nitrogen baseline where a property's nitrogen loss calculation is more than 15 kg of nitrogen per hectare per annum; and (b) Implement the practices set out in Schedule 24; and (c) Implement a Farm Environment Plan prepared in accordance with Schedule 7 Part A, from 1 July 2015, when a property is greater than 10 hectares and is within the Lake Area in the Cultural Landscape/Values Management Area; and (d) Exclude stock from drains, in addition to the regional requirements to exclude stock from lakes, rivers and wetlands.

WET supports 11.4.12 (a), (b) and (d). We are particularly pleased to see drains included in 11.4.12 (d).

Adjustment sought:

WET seeks an adjustment to 11.4.12 (c):

Implement a Farm Environment Plan prepared in accordance with Schedule 7 Part A, from **1 July 2016**, when a property is greater than 10 hectares and is within the Lake Area in the Cultural Landscape/Values Management Area;

Rationale:

By the time the submission and hearing processes under the RMA have been completed and the plan is operative the landowners/farmers in the Cultural Landscape/Values Management Area will have a very short time to prepare and implement their FEP. Further, anecdotally, there seems to be a shortage of suitably qualified and experienced advisors available to provide assistance, particularly to those landowners who do not have the support of industry organisations.

It is unclear exactly what "implementation" of the FEP will require and the timing of this. Is it full or partial implementation by the date in 11.4.12(c)? In addition, the timeframes for approving/auditing the FEP are also unclear, particularly whether this needs to be done by the implementation date. If so, the issue of finding suitably qualified and experienced persons to carry out this work will also apply, as per the preparation of FEPs.

Additional support

WET recommends offering targeted self-help workshops to assist lake margin landowners to meet their obligations. WET would be happy to work with Environment Canterbury and Ngāi Tahu to provide workshops to the community in this area.

We would also like to see the development of additional demonstration farms to assist farmers in achieving good environmental management and in adopting new methods and technology.

Clarification requested

Finally, we note in the ZIP Addendum the statement

There will need to be regular review and revision, if required, of the Selwyn Waihora Sub---regional section and work programme. (p.3)

Specifically, recommendations 2.1 and 5.1 state:

2.1. Environment Canterbury will review, every five years, the progress towards, and achievement of, the ZIP water quantity related outcomes and, if required, revise the Sub---regional Section and work programme(s).

5.1 Environment Canterbury will review, every five years, the progress towards, and achievement of, the ZIP water quality related outcomes and, if required, revise the Sub---regional Section and work programme(s).

The proposed variation 1 makes no mention of a review process, nor is it clear from the Land and Water Regional Plan what the process will be.

We would like to see a clear explanation of the process for reviewing and revising the sub-regional section of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan included in Variation 1.

Appendix A

Waihora Ellesmere Trust's Vision is:

- A place where healthy and productive water provides for the many users of the lake while supporting the diversity of plants and wildlife that make this place unique.
- A place of cultural and historical significance that connects us with our past and our future.
- A place where environmental, customary, commercial, and recreational values are balanced while respecting the health of the resource.
- A special wide open place for the enjoyment and wonderment of present and future generations.
- A place of contemplation and tranquillity as well as activity, a place just to be.

The objects of the Trust are:

- i) To promote and, where appropriate, support best management practices as a means of enhancing the ecological health of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and its tributaries.
- ii) To raise awareness regarding the cultural and historical significance of the Lake and its environs, including the settlement history and current status.
- iii) To provide appropriate dialogue opportunities for decision-making to ensure the various economic, social, cultural, recreational and environmental interests are considered.
- iv) To maintain the sense of place and character that makes the Lake and its environs special to current residents and users, and for future generations.
- v) To raise awareness and understanding of the values of the Lake to recreational and other users to ensure the integrity of the Lake is not compromised.
- vi) In attaining the Objects the Trust shall recognise the views and expectations of Mana Whenua, to respect and implement the dual heritage of the partners of Te Tiriti O Waitangi.