

From: [ECInfo](#)
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: Submission on Consultation Document Long Term Plan 2015-2025 EMAIL:05980043
Date: Wednesday, 15 April 2015 11:05:06 a.m.
Attachments: [{cid22503186DF9EEA4E8F864E089F96AEED@ecan.govt.nz}ECAN_submission_C_M_Roberts.docx](#)
[{cidB1F8DAB9CA53D94AA0365F5BE32355D0@ecan.govt.nz}ATT00001.htm](#)
Importance: Low

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----- Original Message -----

From: Roberts Cynthia

Received: 14/04/2015 5:22 p.m.

To: ECInfo; Environment Canterbury; Services Customer; Services Customer

Subject: Submission on Consultation Document Long Term Plan 2015-2025

Kia ora

Please find attached my submission on the Consultation Document Long Term Plan 2015-2025

Re: Submission on Draft Long Term Plan 2015-2025 and funding for Biodiversity and Biosecurity

1. I would like to submit that the first priority for ECAN is to **continue to fund biodiversity protection at the current level** to enable the protection of the existing indigenous biodiversity, especially any in Critically Under-protected land Environments in Canterbury. These continue to decline dramatically due to land clearance for farming and insufficient protection and pest control ^{1,2}.
2. High value sites identified through the collaborative territorial authority Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy still remain to be protected. The cost of protecting sites with existing natural values is cheaper and creates a richer biodiversity outcome. While re-vegetation programmes are to be welcomed protecting what we currently have must be the first funding priority
3. I support funding for Farm Environment Plans that are a way of presenting landowners with an assessment of the existing biodiversity on their property so that they can make informed decision about farm development. This is not a significance assessment rather a tool to **alert landowners to the importance and regional significance of residual indigenous biodiversity on their farms**. In addition regular feedback for farmers on the water quality coming out of their farm will support their efforts to reduce runoff and encourage riparian planting. Currently they have no hard data as to whether their efforts are having an effect.

In your own publication “**Biodiversity strategy for the Canterbury Region**” (p1) it is stated that

“**...our biodiversity continues to decline and we need to do more.** Halting the decline in Canterbury’s biodiversity and sustaining it into the future is vital for maintaining our quality of life, preserving cultural heritage, and ensuring a sustainable future for our region.

This is a challenging task, requiring widespread positive action, shared responsibility at all levels, and a **considerable increase in resources**...Given the extent of biodiversity loss that has already occurred in Canterbury, avoiding further loss requires that we focus as a first priority on protecting and sustaining the most threatened and ecologically significant remaining habitats and ecosystems and the linkages between them, and as a second priority on restoring representative habitats and ecosystems that have been lost or severely degraded.

Collectively, invasive pests pose the single greatest threat to New Zealand’s remaining indigenous biodiversity surpassing even habitat loss in many areas. The principal threats from pests are predation on and competition with, indigenous plants and animals, as well as disease and hybridization...”

In view of this I was concerned to read in the latest Canterbury Biodiversity Update (April 2015) that ECAN's new strategy indicates amongst other reductions:

- 50% reduction funding for Biodiversity that has been provided through the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy
- 50% reduction in targeted pest management for protecting biodiversity values. With the impact of stopping some initiatives including feral goat eradication and protection of white-flipped penguins on Banks Peninsula, and a programme to combat the invasion of Old Man's Beard in areas of biodiversity value.

Targeted funding for pest animals and pest plants protects ecosystems and critical habitat for our native species. While community groups can and do work well on this their commitment and personnel come and go and thus ongoing paid oversight of this work is critical.

When funds are short, continued targeted funding to protect existing natural native habitat is the wisest use of money. This will provide the best outcomes for conservation and the environment.

Yours sincerely

Cynthia

Dr Cynthia Roberts

¹. Walker, S., Price, R., & Rutledge, D. (2008) *New Zealand's remaining indigenous cover: recent changes and biodiversity protection needs. Science for Conservation 284* Department of Conservation, Wellington.

². MFE & DOC (2007) *Protecting our Places. Information about the Statement of National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Biodiversity on Private Land.* Ministry for the Environment, Wellington.