

**From:** [ECInfo](#)  
**To:** [Mailroom Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Timaru District Council submission on ECan 2015 - 25 Long Term Plan EMAIL:05270876  
**Date:** Monday, 13 April 2015 4:07:31 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [{cidDE26376D58A31741BFE95A1893C1B7E0@ecan.govt.nz}Timaru District Council submission to Environment Canterbury 2015-25 Lon....docx](#)  
**Importance:** Low

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

**From:** Low Mark  
**Received:** 13/04/2015 3:58 p.m.  
**To:** ECInfo; Environment Canterbury; Services Customer; Services Customer  
**Subject:** Timaru District Council submission on ECan 2015 - 25 Long Term Plan

Hi

Please find attached our submission on the ECan 2015 – 25 LTP. We do not wish to speak to our submission.

Regards,

**Mark Low**



[Don't procrastinate, participate!](#)

Have a say in our future 2015-25 LTP

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13 April 2015

The Chief Executive  
Environment Canterbury  
PO Box 345  
Christchurch 8140

Dear Bill

**Timaru District Council Submission to Environment Canterbury Long Term Plan 2015-25**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environment Canterbury Draft Long Term Plan 2015 – 25 as presented through the LTP 2015-25 Consultation Document (CD). The Timaru District Council does not wish to speak to its submission.

The following specific comments are offered for the Commissioner's consideration:

**1) Better Water Management**

The Timaru District Council supports efforts to improve the region's water quality and ensure our rivers, streams and waterways are safe and usable, as outlined in your CD and supporting information. This is critical for the ongoing health of our environment as well as sustaining economic development into the future.

While we support efforts for ongoing improvements to water quality, we encourage Environment Canterbury to continue to liaise and work with stakeholders across the region, including us, to ensure that workable and cost-effective solutions are found to problems, which represent win-win solutions for the environment and economy.

*Decision sought:*

- *That support for the efforts to improve regional water quality is noted.*
- *That the Council supports the timetable for the Orari-Opihi-Pareora zone as proposed in page 14 of the Proposed Council priorities and services, LTP 2015-25 document*

**2) Transport**

Timaru District Council supports the ongoing commitment to maintain passenger transport services in the Timaru district. This remains a vital transport alternative for our community. We acknowledge comments in the CD to meet the needs of a changing population, particularly in the Timaru District's case a rapidly ageing population in the next 20 years. We support cost-effective alternatives being proposed for particular communities where this may present a particular issue in the future, such as Geraldine along with ongoing efforts to improve patronage and make the service more accessible to all potential users.

*Decision sought: That support for the continued provision of South Canterbury public transport services is noted.*

### **3) Greater Christchurch rebuild and the Port of Timaru**

The Council notes comments on support for the rebuild and recovery of Lyttelton Port in the CD and supporting materials. While Lyttelton Port clearly has a place in the future of Canterbury, the Council believes it is important that ongoing role and support for the Port of Timaru is acknowledged.

The Port of Timaru, through its recent partnership with the Port of Tauranga is forging ahead. While the focus of the recovery support is rightly on the rebuild of Greater Christchurch, the Council believes it should consider alternative options such as Port of Timaru that has the capacity and may have less environmental impact. The Port of Timaru has a critical role in supporting the region's resilience.

The Council requests, that while commercial realities exist, it is important that the region works together to ensure both ports have a strong place in contributing to the future growth of Canterbury. In this sense, it is important that the role and potential of the Port of Timaru is supported and acknowledged, and that a balanced view of its contribution to the wider growth of Canterbury is taken by all organisations that contribute to that growth.

*Decision sought:*

- *That Environment Canterbury acknowledges the role of the Port of Timaru in the existing and future growth of Canterbury and considers alternative options when developing the Lyttelton Port recovery forward strategy.*

### **4) Infrastructure Strategy**

The Council acknowledges the work that has been completed on the Environment Canterbury Infrastructure strategy. The Council support all the projects proposed in the strategy as apply in the South Canterbury region.

The Council would particularly like to draw attention to the proposal for the Taitarakihi Creek (Timaru) to upgrade culverts under the railway line, as proposed for 2018 – 2020. This project will address what has been an ongoing issue when rainfall events affect Timaru. It affects the major national transport link (State Highway One) through Timaru.

Modelling<sup>1</sup> conducted by the Council for Environment Canterbury has identified that the low capacity culverts under the railway line are the major source of the problem.

The Council supports the capital works proposed to reduce the flooding potential in this area. As outlined in the flood modelling reports, there are a number of options for mitigation of the issues. The option that achieves the greatest decrease in water levels in the 2% Annual Exceedance Probability (AED) event is the complete removal of the

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<sup>1</sup> November 2013 *Taitarakihi Creek Flood Modelling Report: Prepared for Timaru District Council* ; August 2014 *Additional Mitigation Options for Flooding of Taitarakihi Creek*; November 2014 *Taitarakihi Creek – Further Stormwater Modelling, 10% and 20% AEP Event*, Pattle Delamore Partners Limited, Christchurch

railway culvert and embankment, replaced by an open channel or bridge. The option of increasing the capacity of the railway culverts does achieve a moderate decrease in water levels; however for all options there is significant flooding in the 2% AEP event.

The flood modelling did identify that other options such as flood retention dams within the catchment achieve a greater decrease in water levels than increasing the capacity of the railway culvert in 10% and 20% AEP events.

The Council supports the upgrade to the flood management in the Taitarakihi Creek catchment, but its preference is to bridge the railway line or to further investigate alternative options rather than upgrade culvert capacity.

It would also like this work brought forward, rather than left to 2019-20, to enable this vital transport link to remain open in times of potential flood risk.

The Council also acknowledges and supports proposals for capital works on the Orari-Waihi-Temuka, Seadown, Pareora and Rangitata flood control infrastructure. However, it is not clear from the document what the Seadown drain work refers to and requests some clarification of this.

*Decisions sought:*

- *That the preferred option for upgrade to reduce the flooding potential in the Taitarakihi Creek area is to bridge the railway line*
- *That alternative options to increasing the capacity of the railway culverts are investigated*
- *That adequate funding is included for this project, and the project is brought forward from the current construction date of 2019/20.*
- *That support for the other proposed flood infrastructure capital works in Timaru District is noted.*
- *That Environment Canterbury provides clarification on the Seadown Drain proposed works*

## **5) Keeping us safe from natural hazards and hazardous substances**

The Council acknowledges the ongoing work of Environment Canterbury in overseeing the management of regional hazards, including the provision of technical support and information, as outlined on page 18 of the CD.

The provision of this is critical to our resource management and civil defence functions and any ongoing efforts work to support or enhance this is supported.

*Decision sought: That support for the continued and enhanced provision of technical support and information relating to natural hazards and hazardous substances is noted.*

## **6) Collaborative efforts**

The Council acknowledges the ongoing work of Environment Canterbury to collaborate across the region on a range of initiatives from resource management planning matters to water to region-wide strategy and policy as outlined throughout the CD.

These collaborative efforts are supported and have had benefits including enhanced efficiencies, better relationships and improved decision-making

*Decision sought: That support for Environment Canterbury's collaborative efforts and partnerships is noted.*

## **7) Biodiversity Funding**

Environment Canterbury's efforts to enhance regional biodiversity are acknowledged, including work associated with the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, farmers, landholders and local authorities. The Council supports the ongoing provision of funding for these projects and the concept of a more strategic approach to its implementation.

*Decision sought:*

- *That support for the continued leadership and funding of biodiversity projects across the region is noted.*

Yours sincerely

Peter Nixon  
**Chief Executive**

T I M A R U

TDC



DISTRICT COUNCIL