

From: [ECInfo](#)
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: LTP Submission EMAIL:05270841
Date: Monday, 13 April 2015 12:58:52 p.m.
Attachments: [{cid835555FCCA9B60449CDA4B4354872138@ecan.govt.nz}Cover page LTP Submission 2015.pdf](#)
[{cid1218F9692E58C940851BA6C5DED8121F@ecan.govt.nz}Long Term Plan Ecan submission 2015.pdf](#)
Importance: Low

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

From: Cox Murray
Received: 13/04/2015 12:51 p.m.
To: ECInfo; Environment Canterbury; Services Customer; Services Customer
Subject: LTP Submission

Please find attached submission for the LTP.

Thanks

Murray Cox
Lake Tekapo Recreational Park inc

Submission form

Tukuna mai ōu whakaaro

This is where you can have your say. It's easy to do: just fill in the form and post it to us using the Freepost number below.

Submissions close at 5pm on Monday April 13, 2015.

You may send your submission:

By mail (no stamp required): Freepost 1201, Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345, CHRISTCHURCH 8140

Online: Use the online form provided on our website www.ecan.govt.nz/plans.

Follow the instructions provided

By email: ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz. Ensure your full name and address is included

Please fill in your contact details below

Your name Murray Cox

Your organisation and role in it (if applicable) Lake Tekapo Recreational Park inc
Committee Member

Date

13/4/2015

Tick the box if you wish to discuss your submission in person



I do not wish my contact details to be made public



All submissions are public documents. Copies will be published on the Environment Canterbury website.

Your submission	What do you want Environment Canterbury to do?
<u>Attached</u>	

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13th April 2015

Long Term Plan – Environment Canterbury

My submission is in relation to the Regional Parks and in particular the Lake Tekapo Regional Park.

I am a committee member of the Lake Tekapo Recreational Society Inc. and the part time caretaker for the lake Tekapo Regional Park.

I support Ecan continuing to provide funds for the Lake Tekapo Park and any other parks within the region.

The Lake Tekapo Regional Park is an asset not only for the local community but the much wider community. This can be easily seen at peak times of the year such as Xmas/ New Year, Easter and long weekends when users of the park increase significantly enjoying the many facilities such as walking, biking, picnic areas, boating, fishing or walking the dog. I believe the park has the potential to become a major attraction within its own right.

At all times during the year many visitors from all over the country and overseas enjoy the park as Tekapo is a high volume stopover destination for tourists. Tourist numbers are increasing through the Mackenzie with numbers expected to increase 30% over the next 10 years.

The Park provides a key focal point for access to other tracks and activities within the Tekapo area.

It is noted that Ecan's level of service for the park is "to provide cost effective and safe open space leisure and recreation opportunities on council owned land".

The society's aims are to build on this service by providing additional and enhanced recreational facilities and encouraging and providing enhanced biodiversity through conservation and native restoration and planting.

The society has a memorandum of understanding with Ecan to be able to work collaboratively with Parks and Reserves staff to achieve the aims.

I would like to thank the Ecan staff that deal with the society as they have shown leadership and encouraged the society to develop the park in a collaborative partnership.

In the last 7 years the society has raised over \$280,000 of grants and donations, plus secured free services and goods from suppliers to enable it to meet its aims. It has also invested over 4000 hours of voluntary work in the park.

The society now has a substantial amount of machinery and equipment to be able to maintain the park, has sheds to store equipment and built a nursery to grow on plants for landscaping.

The society has a high stake In the Park and is committed to the ongoing maintenance and development of the Park. The local community is also supportive of the society and the Community Board has assisted with funding from time to time. It is incumbent on the Society to make sure that Ecan provides sufficient long term funding to ensure the sustainability of the Park going forward.

What am I asking Ecan to do?

Ensure that the money available in real terms to provide assets on the ground is not eroded.

Over the next few years, pressure will come on Ecan to reduce costs and work within their budgets. At the same time the costs of management, staff, and depreciation and compliance costs go up.

This reduces the amount of money at the park end to provide goods and services, which are also going up with inflation.

We are already seeing the increase costs such as Insurance and Health and Safety coming through which impacts on the society with training costs and purchase of safety equipment.

The society doesn't have the capacity to absorb increasing compliance costs. These costs are unable to be funded through grant money.

Provide costs of Pest Control for the Park from the Pest Control Programme.

The park is a soil conservation area and is subject to high rabbit numbers which degrade the vegetation and make it difficult for restoration of natural flora.

Due to the fact that the Park is a forest, it produces wilding trees in the surrounding area that need control. Over time some of the forest will be changed for more parks like trees, but the problem of wildings will be around in the foreseeable future.

These costs squeeze the ability to provide the recreational facilities and implement native restoration projects which will meet the service levels and aims of both Ecan and the society.

I would ask that the costs of Rabbit control and Wildings come from the Pest Management funding.

I would not like to see Ecan reduce funding overall for rabbit control and wildings in the Mackenzie either as both of these pests continue to be a real threat to the economy of the Mackenzie.

Targeted Rating area for the park be widened and rate increased

The Park has proved that it is an asset for the wider community rather than the Mackenzie and Timaru area. The Park is becoming a popular destination for mountain bikers and attracts large numbers of visitors. Lake Tekapo is now also an alternative start for the Alps to Ocean cycle track which is attracting increasing numbers of visitors.

That the Park be able to access the Environment Canterbury biodiversity fund.

Within the management plan for the park and the society's aims is to increase the ecological biodiversity within the park and increase the indigenous biodiversity through planting or restoration. This will in turn increase native fauna within the park.

The Mackenzie is regarded as an outstanding landscape and is to be protected as such. The Park sits at the foot of the Two Thumb Range which is a conservation area and supports a variety of alpine plants and native trees. The Park is surrounded on the sides by large tussock lands including Red and Snow tussocks.

There is a unique opportunity to make the park into a working example of recreational activities and conservation initiatives.

The Park as a soil conservation area was planted out in exotic trees but has certain features within it that should be enhanced or protected. The society has had an ecological report carried out which suggests that some native restoration and plantings should be considered.

I believe the park fits into the work being considered by the biodiversity programmes.

Funding from this programme would ease pressure on the current funding for the park.

Murray Cox