

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

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|----------------------|-------------|
| OFFICE USE ONLY | |
| comm | PLAN/1525/2 |
| 13 APR 2015 46551 | |
| ACTION | INFO |
| M. Rooster | |

Please fill in your contact details below

Your name Belinda Helm

Your organisation and role in it (if applicable) _____

Date 7/4/15

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? |
|--|---|
| Please read the enclosed newspaper article. I am very concerned at the damage to our rivers which is being caused by the irrigation that is needed for intensive dairying. | Listen to me and to people like Mr Hughes. Stop any increase in intensive dairying. |
| Once, when I was small, I could swim in the rivers and drink the water while swimming. Imagine that!! | |

Continued on next page

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Your submission

What do you want Environment Canterbury to do?

Continue your submission on additional pages if necessary.



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Dairying is fouling our rivers - Hughes

PAT DEAVOLL



Nutrient leaching into the Waitaki rivers from Mackenzie dairying is imminent, according to New Zealand's longest-serving Fish & Game officer.

Graeme Hughes, who leaves the service on Tuesday, says his main concern is nutrients from the dairy farms getting into rivers via the soils and aquifers.

Hughes, who has formed an affinity with the rivers and landscape of the Waitaki Basin during 49 years as an officer, said: "You can't have all that water [from irrigators] and all those nutrients [from cows] going into the ground and have things stay the same.

"There is a school of thought that says we won't have to wait much longer to see what the effects of this will be, because the nutrients and pollutants will reach the rivers very shortly.

"Whether this is scientifically based, I'm not sure, but something is going to happen."

He said a lot of water was needed to dilute the pollutants but, with only so much water for in-river purposes (animal, bird and fish habitats, and recreation) and so much for farming, there was no spare water.

"The spare water is our water, and bit by bit it is being taken from us," Hughes said.

"Many people say we have gone past the point of no return.

"But which way do you look at it? Most people like looking at

green, irrigated country. And do we have the right to tell dairy farmers how to make a living? Many an old farmer would turn in his grave if he could see what is happening - dairy farms from the coast to the alps, ugly centre pivots with flashing lights."

The people who appreciated the Mackenzie Country remembered it as sparse, brown with shades of yellow and orange, he said.

"It was iconic high country. Now, if you fly over, it's big circles and the stock is sectioned into tiny paddocks. It's completely different."

Another regret he has is the loss of wetlands to farming.

Preserving wetlands was tough, he said. While farmers did not want unproductive swamps and bogs on their land, 90 per cent of wetlands in New Zealand were gone or modified.

"On one hand they are applying for water rights, on the other hand they are draining their wetlands."

However, he said, many dairy farmers have fenced off and planted their wetlands, and not all could be tarred with the same brush. It was just unfortunate that a drained swamp was more productive than a fenced one with waterfowl on it.

On a more positive note, Hughes said he believed the lower Waitaki was still the best big river fishery in the South Island. As it was controlled by the dams, the fish were not disturbed by floods or discoloured water.

"I remember telling people to look at the stones in the river, look at the changing light, the colours in the river, because it might be the last time they see them."



Graeme Hughes: "The spare water is our water, and bit by bit it is being taken from us."

Benmore.
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our Facebook page or
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timaruherald.co.nz



Snap 'em up

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accination

for girls and young women up to their 20th birthday. Women over the age of 20 can still have the vaccine, but they will have to pay for it.

The HPV immunisation programme started in New Zealand on September 1, 2008, and involves three doses by injection, usually spread over six months.

About 150 women are diagnosed

with cervical cancer and 50 women die from it each year in New Zealand.

Parents and caregivers of boys and girls aged 9 to 23 years, are invited to participate in the Massey University survey. Surveys are anonymous and can be accessed at surveymonkey.com or by requesting a hard copy by calling 04 979 3106.

Crossing work begins

NATASHA THYNE

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Work to upgrade the Richard Pearce Drive level crossing in Temuka is to begin this weekend.

The work will include the installation of specially designed rubber ground panels to improve the road surface at the crossing.

Southern KiwiRail regional manager Neil Campbell said rubber panels are installed in most of KiwiRail's busier crossings as they provide a durable and long-lasting surface. He said after the installation of the panels, and the road improvements the Timaru District Council is carrying out, the crossing will be much smoother and quieter, especially for the milk tankers and other heavy vehicles. "The smoother, more even surface, will also further enhance safety for motorists and cyclists as well and this is important for both KiwiRail and the local community."

The road will be closed to traffic from 7am on Saturday, March 28 to 6pm Monday, March 30, while the work is completed but alternative routes will be signposted.



ne Southern Trust Event Centre in Morgans
be entertainment and food as well as face-
ne Home Show are Melanie Tracy from Re-

Weekend Pass

oday
chool Gala: Point Primary School Twi-
ght Gala from 5pm-7.30pm. Great
lection of food, stalls and activities.
eld on the back field at the school, or
the hall and gym if raining.

n Show: The Timaru Herald Home
ow is on, so clear some time in your
y today or over the weekend to

9.30am-12.30pm. Community House
Carpark, 27 Strathallan St.

Garage sale: Glenview Kindergarten, 67
Gleniti Rd, 9am-12pm. Lots of good
quality books, toys and household
goods. Sausage sizzle and face painting.
Treasure Trove: The South Canterbury
Vintage Car Club's annual Winchester
Swapmeet begins 7.30am, Winchester