

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

OFFICE USE ONLY			
FILE REF:	Comm PLAN	1525	2
DOCUMENT No:			
13 APR 2015			
46536			
M Roessler			
ACTION			
INFO			

Please fill in your contact details below

Your name William J. Stevens

Your organisation and role in it (if applicable) N/A

Date

6/4/15

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?

Submissions attached

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WATER QUALITY

SUBMISSION 1:

In the introductory Message from the Chair and CEO, under 'What we propose to do', you state:

'Set and monitor the rules and regulations intended to protect the environment'

Comment: Setting and monitoring rules is a waste of time unless you're prepared to enforce them.

Solution: Be prepared to enforce these rules. You definitely need to toughen your approach to compliance.

SUBMISSION 2:

I notice also that you have a 'top priority' to 'clean up Canterbury's rivers, streams and lakes'.

We have been hearing this sort of promise from Environment Canterbury for years and over that time water quality has only become worse.

Solution: Take positive action to clean up rivers, streams and lakes. Use enforcement if necessary.

SUBMISSION 3:

You plan to spend 38.7million on 'better water management'. Hopefully some of this will be EFFECTIVELY spent on cleaning up our waterways, or what's left of them. To date we've had a number of plans, but not much will to implement or enforce them.

Solution: Don't just spend vast sums of rate-payers money preparing plans. Actually make them work.

SUBMISSION 4:

Natural Habitats-Corridors and Connections:

This is great sounding stuff.

Solution: Make it work. Continue to help with funding. Some good projects have been the result of past funding assistance by ECan.

SUBMISSION 5:

Setting the Rules- Compliance:

Resource users are not necessarily 'struggling to follow the rules'. Some are simply ignoring them, because they know ECan compliance staff, are unlikely to take any action to enforce them.

Solution: Make the rules work.

SUBMISSION 6:

Rural Initiatives-encourage better farming practices:

ECan has been encouraging better farming practices for years and a good many farmers have co-operated, but some haven't. Those who have not begun adopting better practices by now probably won't, unless they are forced to.

Solution: Take firm action against those who continue to fail to co-operate.

SUBMISSION 7:

Should you move more slowly?

Comment: You couldn't possibly move more slowly, surely.

SUBMISSION 8:

Who should pay?

Solution: Those who benefit from the use of the water and those whose practices are, or have been, responsible for poor water quality should meet the cost by way of a targeted rate. All projects should be funded in this way.

SUBMISSION 9:

Natural Habitats-Removal of Weeds:

Land owners should be required to control gorse, broom and especially willow in waterways on their property. Crack willow is probably the worst of the waterway weeds, but is also one of the easiest to control, as it is very susceptible to treatment with Glyphosate and it does not regenerate from seed. Some weeds, once they are established, are almost impossible to control.

Solution: Stronger rules are needed regarding the control of willow, gorse, broom and other weeds in waterways.

AIR QUALITY

Rural Burn-offs:

With the odd exception rural burn-offs are largely unnecessary. Some farmers are very successfully managing without burning stubble. If some can do it so can the others.

Solution: Move to ban rural burn-offs. A permit should be required for exceptional circumstances.