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To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: submission - LTP 2015-15 EMAIL:04932918
Date: Friday, 10 April 2015 2:52:01 p.m.
Attachments: [2015 April WET submission ECAN LTP 2015-15.pdf](#)

Hello Team

This email came in through our Customer Services email. Can you please workflow?

Ngā mihi

Christine

Customer Services

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

From: Waihora Ellesmere Trust

Received: 10/04/2015 2:37 p.m.

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

Subject: submission - LTP 2015-15

Please find attached a submission from Waihora Ellesmere Trust on the ECan Long Term Plan 2015 - 25.

Regards

Adrienne

WET Manager

Waihora Ellesmere Trust General Manager



April 10, 2015

Environment Canterbury
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140

Submission on the Draft Long Term Plan 2015-25

Waihora Ellesmere Trust (WET) is a community organisation dedicated to the improvement of the health and biodiversity of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and its catchment. WET was formed in 2003 to implement a community strategy, developed as a result of community consultation over two years, with a focus on raising awareness of the values associated with Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and promoting good management practices to benefit the health and biodiversity of the Lake and catchment. For the objects of the Trust and our mission statement, please see Appendix 1.

WET has a current Memorandum of Understanding with Environment Canterbury, which we are keen to see continue.

WET's activities

WET is actively involved in many projects which contribute to progressing Environment Canterbury's Priorities, including:

- Hosting, in partnership with key agencies, a biennial Living Lake Symposium, focusing on Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and reporting on the State of the Lake to the community. The next one will be in November 2015
- Collating monitoring data from agencies, universities and others and publishing a report on the state of Te Waihora and the catchment. A report was published in 2013 and the next one is planned for 2015 <http://www.wet.org.nz/projects/2013-state-of-the-lake/>
- Working with ECan and Ngāi Tahu staff to support the implementation of the Whakaora Te Waihora Joint Cultural and Ecological Plan. WET, as an established community organisation with extensive networks, can add a good deal of value to the implementation of the WTW work programmes. WET's activities also contribute to the implementation of the Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee's priorities
- Facilitating the Te Waihora Agencies Group, which provides for regular exchange of information between agencies, and provides information and updates to key governance and management forums such as the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group and the Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee
- Promoting and supporting improved and sustainable drain management through the development of demonstration sites and provision of information and support to landowners

- Coordinating the annual Te Waihora wetland bird survey, in partnership with DOC, CCC, OSNZ and ECan
- Working with local schools and the wider community to raise awareness of the special values of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere
- Member of the Lake Opening Protocol Group
- Providing support for research and being a source of local information

Comments on the draft Long Term Plan

We are pleased to see that improving the region's water quality is Environment Canterbury's top priority and we believe that, as an independent and trusted community group, we can make a positive contribution.

We wish to comment on two areas in particular.

Better Water Management

WET is supportive of ECan pursuing the following actions (p10 – Consultation document):

- *Encourage farmers to restrict their nutrient discharges onto land and into waterways to the limits we have agreed on*
- *Take action against non-complying farms, industry and those responsible for urban discharges where water quality is at risk*
- *Encourage farmers to have a farm environment plan, and monitor their environmental actions*
- *Monitor large irrigation and water storage schemes to ensure they stay within the limits set for water takes*
- *Significantly increase waterway restoration projects, including urban waterways*

We are also supportive of the proposed pilot project for targeted stream augmentation in the Selwyn-Waihora catchment. However, it is not clear from the consultation document exactly which areas will be subject to the targeted rates. The surface water and groundwater systems are interconnected and it is not entirely certain exactly who the affected parties are. It is likely that the environmental benefits will be felt district wide.

Natural Habitats

WET is supportive of ECan pursuing the following actions (p12 – Consultation document):

- *Ensure wetland, riverbank and other restoration programmes continue to flourish in collaboration with district councils, Ngāi Tahu, local farmers and each community*
- *Ensure the most important remaining natural habitats are protected*
- *Focus more on restoring waterway corridors and habitats that form 'stepping stones' for wildlife*
- *Improve the way we track progress and the outcomes of projects*

We note that the importance of tracking progress and outcomes is highlighted and would draw your attention to the Te Waihora State of the Lake 2013 publication mentioned above and the work currently underway on producing a Te Waihora State of the Lake Report 2015.

With respect to point 3, *Focus more on restoring waterway corridors and habitats that form 'stepping stones' for wildlife*, we are supportive of this approach but hope that this does not signal a reduction in funding to support community initiatives and that more isolated projects can still be supported where they have the potential to become locally important, or when there is an opportunity to enhance other projects.

What WET is seeking

Continuity of funding and other support for Waihora Ellesmere Trust

Support from Environment Canterbury and others is greatly appreciated and has allowed WET to function very effectively, with a high degree of stability both in the makeup of the Trust Board and the staff. This adds considerable value to many ECan activities.

Te Waihora Agencies Group

Environment Canterbury to continue to take the lead in contracting the facilitation of the Te Waihora Agencies Group to Waihora Ellesmere Trust. The Agencies collectively have been willing to fund the facilitation of this group and ECan acting as the fund holder ensures that this happens.

Living Lake Symposia and State of the Lake Reporting

Continued support for the integrated biennial reporting to the community on the state of the lake and catchment, with provision of data, technical assistance, and staff time for the planning and hosting of the Living Lake Symposia and the publication of the State of the Lake Reports.

WET wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

Kind regards,

Ruth Markham-Short
Chair, Waihora Ellesmere Trust

Contact for correspondence:
Adrienne Lomax
General Manager
Waihora Ellesmere Trust

Appendix 1

The objects of Waihora Ellesmere Trust, reflecting the community vision, are:

- (i) To promote and, where appropriate, support best management practices as a means of maintaining and/or enhancing the ecological health of Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora, including its tributaries;
- (ii) To raise awareness regarding the cultural and historical significance of the lake and its environs, including its settlement history and current status;
- (iii) To provide appropriate dialogue opportunities for decision-making to ensure the various economic, social, cultural, recreational and environmental interests are considered;
- (iv) To maintain the sense of place and character that makes the lake and its environs special to current residents and users, and for future generations;
- (v) To raise awareness and understanding of the values of the lake to recreational and other users to ensure the integrity of the lake is not compromised;
- (vi) In attaining its objects the Trust shall recognise the views and expectations of Mana Whenua, to respect and implement dual heritage of the partners of Te Tiriti O Waitangi.

Our mission statement:

Waihora Ellesmere Trust (WET) is a community organisation dedicated to the improvement of the health and biodiversity of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and its catchment.

Acknowledging the past and looking to the future, we:

- **Educate** - enhancing understanding, awareness and the values of the Lake through education programmes, newsletters, and field days.
- **Facilitate** -promoting better management practices through public seminars and by partnering with private landowners, community groups and government agencies.
- **Activate** - providing opportunities and encouragement for people to get actively involved in projects to rehabilitate the ecosystem through riparian and wetland enhancement.

Working to make our place better.