

**From:** [ECInfo](#)  
**To:** [Mailroom Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Long-Term Plan submission form [#74] EMAIL:05980032  
**Date:** Friday, 10 April 2015 10:04:23 a.m.  
**Importance:** Low

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

Hello Team

This email came in through our Customer Services email. Please can you workflow.  
Nga mihi

Tracy

Customer Services

**Received:** 9/04/2015 10:19 p.m.

**To:** ECInfo; Environment Canterbury; Services Customer; Services Customer;  
Webmaster@ecan.govt.nz

**Subject:** Long-Term Plan submission form [#74]

Your name *	Merv Meredith
Your organisation and role in it (if applicable)	Peninsula Tramping Club. Secretary & Wilding Trees days co-ordinator
Address *	
Postcode	
Contact phone number *	
Mobile number	
Email	
Date	Thursday 9 April 2015
Tick the box if you wish to discuss your submission in person	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Contact details	<input checked="" type="radio"/> I do not wish my contact details to be made public
Your submission	
1. Our submission concerns the Portfolio area 5 "Keeping us safe" – Pest Management	
2. Reasons for our submission	
a) The consultation document "Deciding our Long-Term Plan 2015 –2025 states that Environment Canterbury intends to develop a new Regional Pest Management Plan, and the philosophy underpinning the new plan will be based on the principles of "..., prevention, early intervention and targeted control, rather than managing widespread, long established pests" (pg	

19).

b) We would be opposed to any reduction of, or shift away from, the current work programme which uses volunteers from local outdoor recreational clubs to manage low density infestations of wildling conifers in the Upper Waimakariri Basin and other headwater catchments.

c) The volunteers complement the other wildling conifer control measures, e.g. aerial spraying, use of commercial contractors by removing seedlings and young trees from large areas that are not economic to control using commercial operators.

d) Environment Canterbury's "Wilding Tree days" have been running successfully for many years. It is a testament to the work of the volunteers that large parts of the upper Rakaia and Waimakariri catchments are free of dense infestations of conifers. Periodic re-visits every 3 to 4 years have checked the spread of the conifers beyond the fringes and each year, the volunteers have progressively worked back towards the source of the infestations.

e) In our view, the volunteer days do not represent a significant burden on Environment Canterbury's budget. The donation of a nominal \$30 per person to each club represents particularly good value for 6 hours of pest control work. Typically, between 80 –100 people volunteer to work each day for an annual expenditure of between \$7,000 – \$10,000 plus staff time and additional disbursements for the use of vehicles.

f) Without Environment Canterbury's support and commitment to the use of volunteers, the wilding tree days would lose their impetus, and eventually cease. Once the control measures cease, re-infestation of cleared areas would rapidly occur, as for example on parts of Flock Hill Station.

What do you want Environment Canterbury to do?

That Environment Canterbury continues to:

- fund, organise and provide logistical support for three or four days wildling conifer volunteer days each year in the upper Waimakariri Basin and the headwaters of other braided river catchments.
  - use outdoor recreational clubs, such as the local tramping clubs, and 4 wheel drive clubs, as a source of volunteers for the wildling conifer days
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