

From: [ECInfo](#)
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: Long-Term Plan submission form [#60] EMAIL:04932841
Date: Wednesday, 8 April 2015 4:54:50 p.m.
Importance: Low

Hello Team

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

Ngā mihi

Christine

Customer Services

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

From: no-reply@wufoo.com

Received: 8/04/2015 4:22 p.m.

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

Subject: Long-Term Plan submission form [#60]

Your name *

Hilary Iles

Address *

Postcode

Contact phone number *

Mobile number

Email

Date

Wednesday 8 April 2015

Contact details

- I do not wish my contact details to be made public

Your submission

1. Better water management

Clean water is essential for life and at no time should this be forgotten.

Yes I think you should be encouraging better farming practices. Any industry should be seeking best practice, in this case where bad farming practices have such adverse effects on our waterways – definitely.

I'd like to be seeing Ecan making sure all farmers have installed their water meters and have their farm management plans and take action against non compliance sooner rather than later – as it will encourage other farmers to get their act together.

It's very important to monitor the large irrigation and water storage schemes – for example the Rangitata south scheme continually seems to be taking water even when the Rangitata rivers are low.

Improving water quality – is essential – yes more money should be spent on it – and really the water polluters should pay not the general public.

Money could be raised from high water users – or ever one pays for their water in proportion to what they use. Water is a free resource for farmers, if it was a different industry they would have to pay for the raw materials. Unfortunately dairying is such a highly intensive water user in the production of milk and then in the processing of milk. I would not want to see any of my Ecan rates going into subsidising irrigation/water storage etc – the government is already using my taxes to do this.

Cleaner water and restoration of waterways – are an urgent task and should be a priority – the longer it takes before restoration occurs – the greater the job and the higher the cost.

Yes the 2 stream augmentation projects should definitely be funded by a targeted rate to those who would benefit most. Also I wonder when you say benefit most is that because they will have more water to use? Contribution to the costs of stream restoration should be come from stream polluters.

2. Natural habitats

There are an awful lot of habitats in the Canterbury region that need restoration .

Re Mt Sunday project – I was there recently and disgusted by the intensive grazing of the tussock and the way cows had polluted several small lakes / ponds. Biodiversity is incredibly important and all opportunities need to be taken to protect existing habitats with good biodiversity from being destroyed.

It is important to remember upper catchment values. Intensification is occurring at higher levels on land which has come out of tenure review. Water ways are now under pressure from the word go and these upland catchments are even more fragile than the lower ones. These areas have higher rainfalls – more flushing of nutrients, higher erosion levels etc – especially where native tussock and matagouri have been removed. In areas even roadside tussock and matagouri have been removed – Ecan needs to be monitoring these areas more and following up on poor water quality test results.

Drive across the Waihi and Orari river upper bridges – and sections which have been waterless since early spring are now awash with wall to wall lupins – no flood will be strong enough to remove them.

3. Transport

Yes to all the transport suggestions. Rail services to and from Christchurch could be targeted to have more people trains at the peak times with good parking access at key points to encourage people to park and ride. Off peak used by goods transporters. I would come into Christchurch by train – especially if there was a stop in the Winchester, Orari area and at the Christchurch stops – places to use a bicycle for the day and return to the station at the end of the day. There are some great overseas examples of this working well.

4. Cleaner air

totally agree with your summary.

Rural burn offs – should be stopped – I know there was a report that said it was good practice – but I wonder who had actually funded that report. Elsewhere stubble burning is banned – if a farmer wants to burn then they should have to pay. They contribute to our greenhouse gas emissions and are totally unnecessary.

Burning off of wood on cleared forestry areas in land conversions should be more closely monitored. Clearers should be required to take more of the smaller pieces of wood – or open it for fire wood collectors to come and get some, rather than making great mounds and burning everything off.

What do you want Environment Canterbury to do?

1. User pays for water.

2. Farmers use best practice farming methods
 3. Ecan closely monitors compliance.
 4. Waterways are restored
 5. Intensification and pollution of high country land is closely monitored and farmers have to comply to water regulations and spray areas /vegetation removal.
 6. Removal of weed infestations in rivers to enable specialist birds to nest in safety.
 7. Habitats are protected, created and restored including upland areas. Make sure that native vegetation in the headwaters of rivers is maintained.
 8. Biodiversity corridors are created and maintained – not just along waterways but with sufficient stepping stones to enable weak fliers to move across the landscape with ease.
 9. Encourage farmers to plant small areas of their farms in natives
 10. Produce a simple booklet explaining the importance of biodiversity.
 11. Produce a simple booklet explaining the connection between vegetation removal and erosion and weed infestation.
 12. Make sure there are ample funds to the biodiversity aims – they should be a priority and will save money in the long run.
 13. Transport – yes the bus, cycling and rail are the best options for the future for moving Canterbury.
 14. Rates targeted at replacing older wood burners with new cleaner ones and education about not burning wet wood. – Suggest some spot checks around houses in the winter to help find people who are unaware of their impact on the air.
 15. Support people on low incomes to effect the changes
 16. Promote discussion amongst farmers of alternatives to burning stubble off and the benefits. Definitely an area you should provide more focus.
 17. Promote better wood clearance of forestry areas being converted to farming.–
 18. Help promote wood burning furnaces rather than coal
 19. Educate but don't hesitate to crack down if rules are not followed – some people will always continue to try and push the boundaries.
 20. Yes I would pay more for improved timely responses to compliance issues
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