

Tukuna mai ōu whakaaro

Submissions close at 5pm on Monday April 13, 2015.

By email: ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz. Ensure your full name and address is included

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FILE REF. REC-000000

DOCUMENT NO. 25 MAR 2015

ACTION

INFO

Your name CRAIG MASON
 Your organisation and role in it (if applicable) Member Over Forties Tramping Club
CHCH - Little River Road Trail Trust

Date 22/3/2015

All submissions are public documents. Copies will be published on the Environment Canterbury website.

What do you want Environment Canterbury to do?

Please see attachment

EC - CHCH	
FILE REF:	Comm PLAN 1525 2
DOCUMENT No.:	
25 MAR 2015 37425.	ACTION INFO
M Roeder	

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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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Canterbury
Regional Council**
Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

*Facilitating sustainable development
in the Canterbury region*

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P2 Closer Working Relations

Over the last 15 years the Christchurch-Little River Rail Trail Trust working in partnership with DOC, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council and Christchurch City Council would probably score DOC 8 out of 10, Environment Canterbury 5 out of 10, and Selwyn DC and the Christchurch City Council 1 out of 10 for their co-operation and support in getting the Rail Trail to Little River completed and extended. This Trust was set up by Environment Canterbury. If you are going to set up community groups to address issues, then you need to deal with them in a much more constructive way than has been our experience to date. You also need to make sure that in dealing with issues you do so efficiently and not leave them to drag on for years and years, while the Council procrastinates.

P8 Keeping us safe from Natural Hazards

Plant and Animal Pests

I recently had experience on the Abel Tasman track where one camp site was over-run with possems, presumably because of DOC funding cuts. This on one of the most significant walking tracks in NZ.

This summer the Anti-Crow hut in Arthurs Pass National Park was so infested with rats and mice that it was unusable. Bush robins, fantails and other common birds have all but disappeared completely and the dawn chorus is very feeble. Rabbits are starting to reassert themselves. Wallabies are becoming far too common in the Waimati area. Deer numbers are building up significantly on the west side of the Main Divide and it's only a matter of time before they start building up east of the Main Divide. There should be no let-up in the control of animal pests if our natural habitats and our birdlife are to be protected and our high country tracks and facilities are to be kept usable and enjoyable. Environment Canterbury should be keeping a close eye on DOC activities on DOC land. It's the region that will suffer if the gross underfunding of DOC and low staff morale continues. My experience has been if you try and communicate with DOC in Christchurch, you are very fortunate if you get any response at all.

P9 Rural Waterways

It has been a great disappointment that Environment Canterbury has not been more pro-active in working with the Rail Trail Trust in getting the public land along the Halswell River fenced off and adequate setback as part of the Rail Trail project. This is a significant tributary of Lake Ellesmere with much conversion to dairying and raceways developed adjacent to the river.

Lake Wairewa is not much better than a cesspit, yet I'm not aware of any work going on with checking on septic tanks, or with encouraging the Christchurch City Council with developing a community sewage scheme, which they keep stalling on, or with restricting the application of fertiliser within this catchment.

P13 Canterbury's Iconic Braided Rivers

Environment Canterbury is to be commended for the cycle trail along the Waimakariri River from Brooklands to McLeans Island. This is an important addition to the recreational cycling opportunities near Christchurch. I would like to see the cycleway extended up the Waimakariri River to Arthurs Pass, as proposed by Sir Kerry Burke when he was chairman of Environment Canterbury. This would add a very significant recreational and tourism opportunity for Canterbury and may help to keep the Trans-Alpine train to Greymouth viable into the future.

P16 Cleaner Air

Require stricter controls on rural burning

Rural burning is necessary. It is an efficient and economical way of dealing with plant material. The adverse effects are minor and only for very short periods of time. Environment Canterbury needs to avoid onerous bureaucratic controls on this activity.

P19 Pest Management

The major plant pest problems are in the high country. Outside the high country there is no excuse for landowners to have plant pests on their properties, except where the land has been completely covered through past neglect and control is uneconomic. These areas should be identified and excepted, elsewhere landowners should be required to deal with their plant pest issues.

Within the high country we are going to lose this area as a major recreational area. The Waimakariri basin is a plant pest disaster area. The current effort going into wildling pine control is tokenism at best. If Environment Canterbury was actively making the property owners responsible for their weed control, high country property's would be changing hands for a fraction of their current prices. I would like to see Environment Canterbury concentrate its plans on each of the high country catchments and be much more active in requiring property owners to control weeds. Also, Environment Canterbury should not allow gravel abstraction from weed infested riverbeds in the high country. This results in the spread of gorse, broom and blackberry round the catchments.