

Make Submission

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Event Name	Long-Term Plan 2018-28 Consultation
Submission by	Miss Amelia Gilmore (76941)
Submission ID	2018-28 LTP -381
Response Date	13/03/18 11:58 PM
Consultation Point	Freshwater Management (View)
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.1

Freshwater Management Support/Oppose

See page 6 of the Consultation Document.

Please select one of the following: I generally disagree with the activity proposed for Freshwater Management.

Freshwater Management Comments

Please provide any comments.

Page 6 of the Consultation Document makes very little specific commitment on what the plan for freshwater actually entails. It is therefore impossible to 'generally agree' with it.

I wish to raise concern regarding freshwater management and indigenous biodiversity.

I believe the language in the consultation document supports further complacency on an urgent matter, content with a 'decades to restore' mindset and no specific targets or time-frames, let alone action steps outlined.

I support, in essence, item 4 in the 'summary of proposed changes'. I believe the long term plan should include significant improvements to reporting and communication, improving not only precision and transparency where there is currently anecdotal generalisations and ambiguity: "We are one of the few places in the world where there is an abundance of freshwater" (confusing, indeed, for the resident who is made to feel guilt for watering their 400sqm lawn) and "The collaborative approach in the CWMS has delivered results for Canterbury by enabling the challenges to be identified and progressed," ; but also in the accessibility in the language and mediums used.

I am a teacher and have found students' inability to research accurate and specific answers to their questions pertaining to issues of freshwater disturbing. Students are able to ascertain from sources

outside of the Canterbury Regional Council and Ecan that exploitation of our freshwater has been enabled by not only poor management but by the blatant conflict of interest within a council which is responsible for both 'regional development', namely large-scale irrigation, as well as environmental protection of our waterways and eco-systems. They cannot, however, find specific data; e.g. on the consented amount of water taken from our waterways by irrigation schemes; the real amount of water taken from our waterways by irrigation schemes; nor the amount taken by private commercial use. Likewise, official data reflecting the 'current and trending health' of our waterways is difficult to locate and interpret. Students were unable to find specific data on the impact of new subdivisions and stormwater drains on their local river, Puharakekenui, as well as the nutrient impact from local dairy farms.

I disagree with any plans to increase any levies for freshwater management for residential ratepayers, believing commercial and, especially farming users to be those accountable for the need for increases.

Overall, I believe the Canterbury Regional Council has a moral and scientific obligation to prioritise environmental protection of the environment, particularly freshwater, over 'regional development' or any financially motivated, commercial or farming practices. As part of this I support:

- 1 Increased spending on indigenous biodiversity
- 2 Consent reviews in **all** catchments, complementing plan change proposals for consent reduction
- 3 Environment plans expected within a short and specific time-period; action against non-complying-farmers
- 4 Significant education in 4-wheel drive access to coastal areas and rivers, and any area of
- 5 Review of the impact of tourism on Canterbury's environment and resulting proposals for regulation of the industry.
- 6 Independent, specific and fully transparent reporting on all environmental matters, especially pertaining to freshwater, so that summarized data is presented visually; and so generalized, verbose, politicised, euphemised and incomplete accounts of the current use of water and state of our waterways, are deemed financially and socially irresponsible. Reporting and consultation needs to be made accessible to all residents; this is necessary to inform and not to discriminate against those who find lengthy reports difficult to read and comprehend. Specific freshwater targets, including limits on all pollutants for example, and progress towards achieving them should be data that is regularly reported in a clear manner and multiple mediums, accessible to all residents.