
From: Jim <j-j.mac.rosevilla@xtra.co.nz>
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To: Mailroom Mailbox
Subject: LTP SUBMISSION
Attachments: Submission To ECAN Longterm Plan.docx

Below is a submission from
Jim Macartney
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I would like to attend the hearing.

Regards
Jim Macartney

SUBMISSION HALSWELL RIVER RATING FUNDING

The Halswell River Drainage District Liaison Committee at its annual meeting on 13 March 2018 notes that Environment Canterbury and Ngāi Tahu agreed in 2014 on a vision for the Lower Halswell, including the “reinstatement and restoring of Ahuriri Lagoon as a wetland of significance in the Canterbury region”. We also note that there has been a successful application to the MfE freshwater improvement fund to enable a substantial constructed wetland to be built at Ahuriri Lagoon. The committee supports in principle the construction of a wetland that will provide for enhanced Mahinga Kai, reduced siltation and nutrients being discharged into Lake Ellesmere Te Waihora, which will be a benefit to the wider community. While some of the Ahuriri Lagoon area is very low lying and has already been retired from grazing, much of the Ahuriri lagoon area currently provides an income to the Halswell River Drainage District. Because the land was endowed for that purpose in 1905. Our understanding is that ECAN will have to seek the permission of the relevant Government Minister to alter the endowment requirement, *“that income from the Ahuriri Reserve will be used for removing obstructions to the flow of the Halswell River”*. We understand through involvement on the Ahuriri Lagoon Steering Group that the long term concept for the restoration of Ahuriri Lagoon is a substantial retirement of most or all of the endowment land and that some has already been retired and some income has already been lost to the Halswell River Rating District.

However, we note that the purpose of the endowment land is set out in statute (Ellesmere Land Drainage Act 1905) as follows:

3 Endowments

(1) The land described in Schedule 2 hereto and now vested in the Selwyn County Council as an endowment ***to provide funds for the purpose of removing obstructions to the flow of the Halswell River through Lake Ellesmere to the sea*** is hereby, with the consent of the said Council, vested in the Ellesmere Lands Drainage Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board); and all rents and profits hereafter derived from the said lands shall belong to the Board.

(2) The land described in Schedule 3 hereto is hereby vested in the Board as a further endowment. *(Reference to Selwyn County Council has been superseded by Local Government reorganisation, With Environment Canterbury now being the relevant controller of the endowment land)*

We note that the current lease income from the endowment land is around \$50,000 per year, about 6% of the income of the scheme. 80% of the rest of the income is provided by local targetted rates, 15% by district-wide works and services rates and 5% by general rate.

In order to satisfy the statutory purpose of the land, since the restoration is for “public good”. **We propose that any reduction in lease income through retirement of land for restoration purposes be offset by an equivalent increase in general rate income to the Halswell River Drainage District.** This would need to be indexed somehow to keep up with market rates. Since the timing and scale of retirement of land is not yet clear, we cannot be more specific about the amounts involved year by year, but wish to establish the principle in advance of the restoration work proceeding.

Regards

Jim Macartney
Chairman Halswell River Rating Liaison Committee