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Event Name	Long-Term Plan 2018-28 Consultation
Submission by	Ms Marilyn Yurjevich (77361)
Submission ID	2018-28 LTP -828
Response Date	21/03/18 3:40 PM
Consultation Point	Long-Term Plan 2018-28 (View)
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.1

Long-Term Plan 2018-28

Comments on any other policies or strategies in the Full Draft Long-Term Plan.

Comments.

Thank you for an overall sound Long-term Plan, and for the opportunity to submit my thoughts.

Congratulations for making Freshwater Management a priority. This can be improved by addressing the issue of very long-term nitrate pollution from farms. ECan needs to spend more on monitoring the smaller farm holdings, even if means an increase in rates. This is an intergenerational risk that must be addressed now, because addressing damage after the fact will be more costly. Associated with this, I would like ECan to work collaboratively and as a united environmental voice with the Christchurch City Council, Department of Conservation, Ngai Tahu, the Callaghan Institute, which is conducting some interesting research on nitrate reduction to address this issue, along with other organisations that work towards a healthy environment.

Water extraction for private profit is an issue I strongly object to. Water is needed to fill our aquifers, cleanse our waterways, and provide for Canterbury's well-being. I submit that ECan lobby the government to change the Resource Management Act and the Local Government Act to allow ECan to enable it to refuse such consents.

Externalities from pollution sources has not been addressed, whether it be nitrates in our water or air pollution from car exhausts, fires, or urban run-off. This would be a strong signal that pollution is unacceptable, and that public and environmental health is more important than short-term convenience. A tax on pollution could address this; subsidies to help the poor would help the disadvantaged in this regard.

Hazards, Risk and Resilience: I support using the Red Zone as flood protection and a biodiversity opportunity. Climate change is also an urgent issue as well as being an intergenerational issue. While ECan is working on this, again this needs more resourcing to better address the various risks that climate change poses. I support ECan working with other Authorities and organisations in addressing this overwhelming issue.

Biosecurity and Biodiversity are very important. I submit that ECan needs to protect what remains, along with creating new areas of conservation around Canterbury, which hopefully will include eco-sanctuaries on the Port Hills, in the Red Zone, and elsewhere, along with increasing wetlands in the Red Zone rather than having the Red Zone turned into a large economic revenue-maker from environmentally-damaging large-scale commercial operations.

Air quality. There should be some funding set aside for non-domestic emissions. Again, an increase in rates, or rural rates, would enable gains to be made here.

Transport: I support your preferred option, but surely senior citizens could pay \$1 towards some aspect of public transport that is not covered by the legislation that makes it free.

Thank you

Marilyn Yurjevich