

Make Submission

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Event Name	Long-Term Plan 2018-28 Consultation
Submission by	Ms Tanya Didham (77386)
Submission ID	2018-28 LTP -859
Response Date	21/03/18 10:30 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 agree with the activity proposed for Freshwater Management.

Freshwater Management Comments

Please provide any comments.

Water is life. It might be a cliché, but it's true nonetheless, so water quality should indeed be ECan's number one priority.

The 'management' (not a word I am fond of, I prefer something more like 'guardianship'; kaitiakitanga) of our freshwater resource must first include a clear picture of what is actually happening out there. We can't allow the free-for-all attitude that destroyed the Murray River in Australia for example. Consents must be clear, they must be properly monitored, they should not be in perpetuity with the land, but subject to review if land is sold or use changes.

Land use is a clear target for improvement in terms of water quality. We cannot continue to support industrial scale, monoculture dairying on our porous, windswept, aquifer-feeding Plains. The run-off, along with generally unmonitored takes are killing our rivers along with their beautiful, braided and endangered environments, and their rare inhabitants. Waterways are the lifeblood of biodiversity.

When thinking about the preservation of this fundamental-to-life resource, we should be thinking about it as part of an entire ecosystem that we want to preserve; we need to be foreseeing and adapting to

the affects of climate change; and we need to plan with our grandchildren's grandchildren's drinking water in mind.

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Event Name	Long-Term Plan 2018-28 Consultation
Submission by	Ms Tanya Didham (77386)
Submission ID	2018-28 LTP -932
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Biodiversity and Biosecurity Support/Oppose

See page 8 of the Consultation Document.

Please select one of the following: I generally agree with the activity proposed for Biodiversity and Biosecurity.

Biodiversity and Biosecurity Comments

Please provide any comments.

Yes, maintaining and encouraging biodiversity and striving for ecological balance should of course be key to ECan's core functions.

Pivot irrigators in the Mackenzie Basin are a perfect example of rare habitat and biodiversity destruction. Restoration and regeneration must include stopping - and reversing - bad practise. Only a hundred years ago (and for thousands of years), global farming and agriculture *harboured* biodiversity - true sustainable development lies in understanding the critical role biodiversity plays in having healthy ecosystems and healthy food chains.

Canterbury is a poor performer in the biodiversity stakes due to so much intensive monoculture milk production; overuse of fertilisers and pesticides, over-production of waste; urban and rural degradation of river, wetland and marine habitats; lack of an ecosanctuary; and our almost total lack of indigenous habitat east of Banks Peninsula.

So some solutions could be to:

- 1 increase monitoring and regulation of permitted land/water usage to allow river ecosystems to recover/flourish

- 2 educate about and encourage diversity in agricultural land use, for example cropping and mixed farming, over intensive dairying
- 3 educate and help farmers to reduce their environmental impacts, and restore water corridors through planting natives (it's not all about the big rivers, it's about what feeds them too.)
- 4 rivers and wetlands definitely need focus (and probably more budget), but marine habitats are in dire need too
- 5 support an ecosanctuary in Christchurch - Canterbury is the only NZ region without one
- 6 support the regeneration of the Otakaro-Avon corridor and the red-zoned surrounds to make a unique, urban, city-to-sea, native forest park
- 7 support the regeneration of the Opawaho-Heathcote river along with the Port Hills (post-fire, so many volunteers have already planted thousands of natives up there - imagine if we actually paid people to plant trees! Jobs and forests - win-win!)
- 8 support the use of dark-sky lighting where possible to encourage our nocturnal species. For example the Red Zone Dark Sky Park is another great community-led project that could bring our night-time forest park to life!

Short-term investment in habitat creation will pay huge biodiversity dividends in the future.

In terms of biosecurity and pest management I do not support the continued mass, untargeted aerial application of 1080 poison into our forests. In my view this is a failed experiment that instead of winding down has increased in scale and scope to the great detriment of our environment, and the native wildlife it is supposed to be saving. Trapping and targeted control of harmful species is the only sensible (and humane) way forward. I also think we need to have a rational, evidence-based discussion around the definition of what an environmental 'pest' is.

I would urge you all to be very strong advocates for nature, we are still only discovering just how important biodiversity is to our own species' survival.

From DoC's website:

"While biodiversity services come for free in the form of rainfall, wind, landscapes, waterways, coastlines, oceans, animals, plants and fungi, that doesn't mean they have no value.

In **1997*** Massey University economists calculated that native biodiversity contributed **NZ\$230 billion a year** to New Zealand's economy; well over **twice the value of our gross domestic product (GDP)**. Marine ecosystems, they found, contributed NZ\$184 billion of that total. [*my emphasis]

Simply by being there our biodiversity contributes to everyone's wellbeing."

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/biodiversity/about-biodiversity>