

## Make Submission

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<b>Event Name</b>	Long-Term Plan 2018-28 Consultation
<b>Submission by</b>	Mr Nick Ledgard (77587)
<b>Submission ID</b>	2018-28 LTP -1158
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### 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.

I support increased activity in the Freshwater Management area, particularly related to braided rivers. It is vital that we do not continue to just 'mine' braided rivers for water, shingle and recreation - as we have done in the past. I commend ECan for moving away from this 'mining' mentality in the last decade. But the rich and unique indigenous biodiversity values in braided rivers must be given greater consideration. Your plans may pay 'lip service' to this (ie., use the right words), but there must be specific field targets against which real progress can be measured. These may well reduce potential economic returns from proposed water use, but that is the price we have to pay if we / ECan is to live up to it's environmental aspirations. Much depends on flow regimes adopted, and these must be based on realistic biodiversity needs. For example, 'flushing flows' - do these meet the needs for maintaining braided river biodiversity health, or are they just token periods of increased flow?

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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.

As the Chair of the Ashley-Rakahuri Rivercare Group Inc and BRaid (braided river aid) Inc, my particular interest is in the indigenous biodiversity of braided rivers. I need not emphasise the diagnostic importance of braided rivers to Canterbury, both aesthetically and environmentally - and commend ECan for recognising these aspects in the CWMS and LTP. I also commend ECan for its Canterbury Regional Initiative aimed at braided rivers (\$100k annually), which has made good progress in its early years. However, the right words are not hard to incorporate in such documents - the acid test is whether the goal of maintaining / enhancing biodiversity is actually being achieved. I propose that the LTP stipulates more transparency and better advocacy of results from goals such as those set out in the braided river Initiative Terms of Reference.

More specifically, I urge ECan to a) restrict the future use of motorised off-road vehicles and bikes on braided riverbeds, and b) monitor weed invasion of braided rivers and implement appropriate control where needed.

A) Vehicle use of braided rivers. The first step is always to improve awareness of the problems associated with such use – both through the usual educational and media outlets and by on-river signage. The second step is physical prevention through blocking of access ways at important sites.

Although there is an extreme element of off-road enthusiast who will always pose a problem, such initiatives will stop the majority of riverbed driving instances. They will also prepare the way for regulation, and enhance the likelihood of its success, should that be considered needed in the future.

I request ECan to budget an annual amount for reducing the use of braided rivers by motorised vehicles. The fund would be used to:

- 1 Prepare and deliver information targeted at the appropriate end-user groups, plus the general public.
- 2 Make and erect practical signage on rivers.
- 3 Create barriers to prevent motorised access into riverbeds, particularly at critical sites during the bird breeding season.

B) Weed invasion of braided rivers. Indigenous bird species which only breed on braided rivers (such as the wrybill and black-fronted tern) must have open shingle on which to nest. Weed invasion reduces such areas. This is very apparent on the Waitaki river, where dams have severely compromised normal river flows - and recent clear shingle island creation has had positive outcomes for breeding birds. But weed invasion is particularly bad in the smaller foothills-fed rivers, where weed seed sources of the likes of gorse, broom and lupins are greater, and flood levels and frequencies are lower. In recent years, indigenous biodiversity values in the likes of the Orari and Opihi riverbeds have been almost completely lost to weed invasion (assisted in the Orari by lower water flows due to water abstraction). It is predicted that soon, there will be no bird species breeding in the Orari. The recent impact of weed invasion in the Ashley-Rakahuri riverbed on bird numbers is well recorded (refer self for that data). Modern aerial and satellite imagery makes monitoring of weed invasion over time relatively easy.

I request ECan to budget for monitoring the weed invasion of, and its impact on, braided rivers. The fund would be used to:

- 1 Contract a professional to map historic and current weed invasion of braided rivers over time.
- 2 Quantify the impact of weed invasion on indigenous biodiversity - particularly bird populations and breeding success.
- 3 Produce a report on 1 and 2 above.

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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.**

#### **Control of wilding conifers.**

I commend ECan on its support of wilding control in the region. Back in the 1990s I helped the CRC with its first considerations of the wilding problem (led by Di Lucas). Some of these early outcomes (only slightly amended) are now used nationally - such as the Wilding Risk Assessment Form. Relative to weed control expenses, DOC research has identified wilding control as being the most cost-effective use of limited funds, as they are the easiest to actually eliminate completely (cf., gorse and broom with their long-lasting seed bank).

I commend ECan for supporting the implementation of the NZ Wilding Control Strategy (led by MPI) with appropriate RPMP regulation to complement the operational control work being funded by central government.

I urge ECan to pay particular attention to promoting the removal of the smaller, often privately-owned, sources of wilding seed. As these can be part of shelterbelts and amenity plantings, they are not only hard to identify, but it is difficult to persuade owners of the need for their removal.

I ask ECan to:

- 1 Support the identification of spread susceptible conifer species in private ownership within a set time period ie., all sources identified by end of 2019.
- 2 By the end of 2019, individually approach all owners to make them aware of the need for removal (written notification has failed in the past)
- 3 Set an appropriate timeframe for removals to be completed - say by the end 2020.

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### Biodiversity and Biosecurity Support/Oppose

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### Biodiversity and Biosecurity Comments

**Please provide any comments.**

#### Management of the Lake Lyndon area

The Waimakariri Environment and Education Trust (WERT) is an end-user group which has been set up to support the Department of Conservation (DOC) with recreation and environment needs in the upper Waimakariri area. Over the past 18 months WERT's efforts have focused on Lake Lyndon and its surrounding catchment. This lake is the closest large natural body of fresh water to Christchurch, and as such has attracted increasing attention since tenure changed from private grazing lease-hold to public ownership 10 years ago. There is some concern that recreational activities are having a significant impact on the natural values of the lake and the surrounding area. Currently, despite it's easy public access and high amenity and conservation values, there is little formal management of the lake, its biodiversity and the recreational activities. Hence, WERT's current project of drafting a management plan.

I commend ECan for its support of WERT and the preparation of a management plan to protect the indigenous biodiversity of L. Lyndon and its catchment, whilst catering for sympathetic recreational uses.

I urge ECan to continue such support, and promote the completion of a Plan by the end of 2019.