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**From:** Annie Cao <annie.elizabeth.cao@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 24 March 2018 12:11 p.m.  
**To:** Mailroom Mailbox  
**Subject:** LTP submission

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## Submission

Dear Environment Canterbury,

I wish to submit to the Long Term Plan in respect of three matters:

- Climate change
- Public transport
- Enforcement and prosecution

### Climate change

I support [350.org](http://350.org)'s submission that there is a lack of emphasis on climate change in the LTP consultation document, when this is the biggest environmental, social and economic issue facing the world today.

I accept that local authorities are constrained by the RMA regarding what they can do to mitigate climate change itself. However, the RMA does not prevent Ecan from setting ambitious targets to reduce Ecan's own operating emissions. Ecan as the regional council should be setting the example for the business community regarding environmentally friendly practises in the office.

Ecan should also be in dialogue with the government regarding the RMA and its constrained ability to respond to climate change. The Resource Management Amendment Act 2004 gave councils a strong mandate to plan for the effects of climate change but prohibited councils from considering the "effects on climate change of discharges into air of greenhouse gases".

Court cases have interpreted the RMA as preventing councils from considering the effects of emissions on climate change when consenting power plants and coal mines. The same prohibition would also apply to consenting for new dairy farms and irrigation schemes.

In my view, the state of the RMA at present is highly unsatisfactory. Ecan must push for the government to promulgate a national environmental standard to regulate the effects of emissions on climate change. If national direction is not forth-coming (and it has not been for over a decade), Ecan should lobby for changes to the RMA to enable it to consider **both** sides of a coin in consenting - mitigating climate change **and** the downstream effects of climate change.

### Public transport

I support option 1 to resolve the \$4 million shortfall in public transport. I do not support large increases in fares which will make public transport inaccessible to those who really need it.

I welcome more investment in cycling infrastructure and greatly appreciate the cycle paths that have been put in to date.

### Enforcement and prosecution

I did not see any reference to enforcement and prosecution in the LTP consultation document.

More funding needs to be towards enforcement and prosecution. Charges must be laid against repeat offenders instead of a soft educational approach. When it comes to polluting our waterways, offenders need to appreciate the long lasting and sometimes irreversible damage caused. A tough approach will set a precedent and will deter others from breaching terms of their resource consent or carrying out unconsented activities.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Annie Cao