
From: Caroline CSPA <cspscs@gmail.com>
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Subject: LTP SUBMISSION
Attachments: SYDDALL_Submission ECan LTP 2018-28.pdf

Kia ora

Please find attached my submission to the Long-Term Plan.

I would like to speak to my submission.

Nga mihi
Caroline Syddall

Submission to the Environment Canterbury Long-Term Plan 2018-28

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Date: 25 March 2018

1. Commentary on Whole Plan

Both the plan and the organisation need to put environmental sustainability at the front end. If we are to have a decent future in Canterbury we need environmental sustainability to drive ECan's decision making and actions. Enabling economic growth while not compromising environmental sustainability is an oxymoron as growth is limited by the finite resources of planet. "Facilitating sustainable growth" in recent years has led to our natural environment, particularly our water, being compromised and degraded.

The plan needs to address how the organisation itself will reduce its carbon footprint, and the efforts it is making to identify and reduce activities that exacerbate climate change. This should be integrated across portfolios, coordinated with other councils across Canterbury and with government agencies, and be reported on.

A return to full democracy in the 2019 elections is a key issue for Canterbury and should have been at the front of the consultation document. This should include at least two Ngāi Tahu representative councilors, elected through the Papatipu Rūnanga's own democratic processes.

2. Public Transport Options

ECan needs to recognise the core role of public transport in creating a livable, sustainable city and in reducing carbon emissions and mitigating climate change.

I do not support any of the proposed options.

Selecting the 'lowest performing routes' for discontinuation is to look at only part of the picture. Rather than proposing to discontinue these routes, there should be an overall review of the needs of people in all areas, and the appropriateness of all routes should be reviewed together. ECan has said in the past that bus usage is declining *inspite of improvements to routes*, I believe usage has declined *because routes have been made worse rather than better*.

The current tendering system needs to be reviewed to consider whether it is reducing flexibility and service, hindering long-term planning and reducing staff conditions and remuneration.

I hear much comment that the cost of bus travel puts people off using the buses; increasing fares will lead to a decrease in usage.

3. Freshwater Management:

Water quality and security have been seriously degraded during the Commissioners' reign. There is not an abundance of freshwater as stated in the document. Canterbury needs to prepare for droughts as well as floods. Over-allocation, agricultural chemical pollution, city road runoff and historic water consents all threaten supply and quality.

ECan needs to work with/lobby central government to legislate to undo past over allocation through historic water consents. It should also:

- Take action to limit plastic going into waterways.

- Continue to support Whaka Ora, the health of Lyttleton Harbour.

- Increase monitoring, compliance, and enforcement. Work to increase penalties to cover the costs of damage done.

I grew up taking swimmable rivers for granted and appreciating that the Canterbury plains were farmed in a way that was suited to the soil and natural water supply. It is completely unacceptable that the short term profitability of large dairy businesses should have been able to seriously compromise clean water and river flows. This has been a massive transfer of eco services from public to private hands.

4. Biodiversity & Biosecurity:

I agree that major change is needed in this area and that freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems all require serious work to halt the existing decline. In particular, Canterbury's unique braided rivers need recognition and protection.

Priority needs to be given to protecting what remains in terrestrial ecosystems- this is cheaper than to begin from scratch and reduces the risk of additional loss of plants and animals.

I support the idea of co-operative work to protect biodiversity- community groups have a large role to play in this.

ECan needs to have a policy on local sourcing of seeds and plants for restoration projects.

I support a Banks Peninsula Community Initiative for targeted rates to include the Port Hills in the Pest Free Strategy.

I propose increasing the Immediate Steps funding for the Water Zone Committees as the use of volunteers and the local community is an efficient way of achieving outcomes.

5. Hazards, Risk and Resilience:

ECan needs to both lobby and work with central government to enable it to take more leadership in climate change prevention and mitigation.

I support the focus of enabling communities to be better informed of local risks.

I support Climate Change Integration. In addition, there needs to be a stronger overall focus on climate change as this is Canterbury's major future hazard. ECan needs to address the causes of climate change, not just the results. It should make the reduction in emissions and the mitigation of the effects of climate change major drivers in planning across all portfolios.

6. Air Quality:

I recommend working with central government to ensure low income households can have warm, dry homes without burning dirty fuel or using inefficient burners.

I recommend more publicity to discourage people burning treated timber- which you still see offered for sale and giveaway around Christchurch.

7. Transport & Urban Development:

Public transport and pedestrian, bicycle and other non-motorised transport-friendly urban development is key to sustainable and liveable cities. These both have a major role in reducing carbon emission and promoting public health.

This requires a long term view and major planning and expenditure. ECan needs to work with central government to get central/regional government partnerships to drive long term change. We cannot afford to continue with a 20th Century approach to transport and urban development. There should be a more visible public re-visiting, and discussion, of the outcomes of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (now called the Greater Christchurch Partnership) to continue the community engagement begun in 2003.

As stated in section 2, cutting back bus routes is counter productive to efforts to improve transport in Christchurch. As well as retaining these routes, ECan should look at the return of the free central city shuttle, flexibility about allowing bicycles inside buses when the bike racks are full, park and ride and bike and ride options.

8. Regional Leadership:

I support Ngāi Tahu's representation within the Council as a fundamental exercise in Treaty partnership. I support the Tuia relationship. It is a very positive to note that mātauranga Māori information will be presented alongside the usual environmental reporting; this is a positive step in ensuring the relationship of respect becomes more publically visible.

I am encouraged by the support for NGOs and the youth sector through the provision of meeting spaces, workshops and hui to ensure their perspectives are captured during the decision-making processes. Community outreach and

education are vital. I have heard very positive comments about the work of the Community and Youth Engagement teams. Please continue to support these teams and expand their outreach capacity. I encourage Environment Canterbury to continue their support of, and encouragement for, the Enviroschools programme through their relationships with the Christchurch City Council and District Councils.

9. Revenue & Financing Policy:

I generally agree with the principles outlined in the revenue and financing policy. In addition I believe ECan needs to strongly encourage central government to contribute to projects that require a major shift in behaviour and long term sustained funding, e.g. transport and urban development and freshwater management.

10. Rates:

I support the introduction of a home insulation loan scheme.

I support the pest control rates proposals, particularly extending the Banks Peninsula targeted rate to include the Port Hills.

11. Supporting Policies & Strategies:

I strongly support the Māori Participation Policy

Significance & Engagement Policy. The key consideration in determining the significance of an issues should be the impact on long term environmental sustainability. ECan needs to work to increase public information, understanding and involvement in issues. It is important to focus on facts and options and avoid spin (such as that we have seen around public transport).

12. **I would like to meet** with Councillors in Christchurch.

13. Citizens' Panel: **I am willing** to be contacted about being part of a citizens' panel.