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**From:** Rosalie Snoyink <rsnoyink@xtra.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 March 2018 4:13 p.m.  
**To:** Mailroom Mailbox  
**Subject:** LTP Submission J. & R. Snoyink  
**Attachments:** Submission LTP J. & R. Snoyink.pdf

Please find attached submission.  
J. & R. Snoyink

## Submission LTP 2018 – 2028

Submitter: Jules and Rosalie Snoyink

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26 March 2018

To Environment Canterbury,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the LTP.

### 1. Freshwater Management

Opening comments on Consultation Document:

- *There is an abundance of freshwater* – Disagree. With climate change upon us water is a diminishing resource. Glaciers and snow fields are melting at an alarming rate. Water in the Selwyn District is over-allocated. Rivers and streams in the province are under pressure from over abstraction, and pollution from agricultural run-off. Messages about an abundance of freshwater send the totally wrong signal to users of water. Both commercial and household users need to reduce consumption and use water more efficiently.
- *The Regional Council is responsible for facilitating sustainable development.* Disagree. We believe the Council's priorities should focus on freshwater management and maintenance and protection of Indigenous Biodiversity. 'Sustainable development' has resulted in a growing crisis in freshwater, indigenous biodiversity and indigenous landscape in Canterbury. There needs to be a paradigm shift away from the old thinking that we can simply keep developing. We need to move into a new era of restoration and regeneration if our way of life is to improve for current and future generations.

**Collaborative approach.** Disagree. There is falling public support for so called 'collaboration'. Our experience of Zone Committees fell far short of what true community collaboration should be. Now that sub regional plans are in place we see no need for Zone Committees. They should be replaced and the funding used to employ experienced staff to fill the shortfall in monitoring and compliance. In a recent presentation on RMA reforms Sir Geoffrey Palmer adds at pg 14 it is necessary to "Remove collaborative planning".

<http://www.eds.org.nz/keep-in-touch/blog/2018/the-case-for-rma-reform-sir-geoffrey-palmer/>

Finally on Freshwater Management we would like to see ecologically healthy flows in Canterbury's rivers and streams, and a reversal of the downward trend in water quality in the region's lakes. We support an immediate review of all water consents to achieve ecosystem health both in aquifers and surface water bodies. There needs to be better alignment of agencies when it comes to the resource consenting processes. The various agencies have failed in achieving integrated management of land and water resources.

## **2. Indigenous Biodiversity**

**Agree** with a step change in effort to halt the decline and restore the natural character of degraded indigenous habitats and ecosystems. So much indigenous biodiversity has been destroyed in Canterbury by intensive agricultural development, that everything that remains is significant and of national importance. Canterbury has one of the worst rates of indigenous biodiversity loss in NZ. We need to turn this around.

We support Objective 9.2.1 of the CRPS that seeks to halt the decline in the quality and quantity of Canterbury's ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity and support the policies to implement this objective. The overall functioning and intrinsic values of Canterbury's **existing** ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity should be protected from the adverse effects of land use and development activities. We agree with the 'no net loss' principle to ensure indigenous biodiversity protection at both the district level and the regional scale. No irrigation consents should be granted without a full and independent survey of the indigenous ecological values present, and with the consideration of District plan rules around land use activities.

We support the protection of braided rivers and wetlands, and their habitats for indigenous terrestrial flora and fauna and indigenous aquatic species. There should be no further reclamation of riverbed land in Canterbury for farming purposes. A priority should be the review of existing leases and land tenure, with the ultimate return of land that has been developed for farming activities back to the river.

More resources are required for the protection of marine ecosystems.

## **3. Hazards, Risk and Resilience**

**Agree** with a Climate Change Integration programme. Climate change is by far the most important issue for the Council and for the Canterbury public. Sea level rise and coastal erosion are huge issues that need to be faced as the need to retreat from coastal places becomes necessary. Stronger efforts are needed to reduce greenhouse gases and the use of fossil fuels. There needs to be a move away from dairy farming (the highest emitter of greenhouse gases) toward a more sustainable, greener, organic method of food production. There needs to be recognition that new technologies and innovations are currently designing the New World of agriculture and food production (Agriculture 2). See "NZ on the road to becoming the Detroit of Agriculture by Dr Rosie Bosworth. <http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/agribusiness/87029510/nz-on-road-to-becoming-the-detroit-of-agriculture> December 2016.

## **4. Transport**

Public transport should be freely available and subsidised by rates. Keeping costs low will encourage use. We support more pedestrian and cycling access in rural towns and city destinations.

## **5. Rates**

**Disagree** with increasing rates. We support stronger penalties for infringements and the income used to improve monitoring and enforcement. We are opposed to externalising the costs of water pollution through rates. The polluter should pay and income derived from penalties put to cleaning up polluted waterways and drinking water supplies.

We wish to be heard in support of this submission.

J. & R. Snoyink.

