
From: sophie@workingwaters.org
Sent: Monday, 26 March 2018 4:21 p.m.
To: Mailroom Mailbox
Subject: LTP Submission
Attachments: ECan LTP March 2018.pdf

Dear ECan,

Please find my submission attached.

Sophie Allen (on behalf of the Working Waters Trust)
1 Cargill Pl, Richmond, Christchurch 8013

I do wish to be heard at the hearing.

Cheers,

Sophie

Sophie Allen
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WORKING
WATERS TRUST
Ngā manaaki ki ngā wahi Waimāori katoa

Submission on the Environment Canterbury Long Term Plan 2018-2028

March 2018

Submission by Sophie Allen – Projects Manager, on behalf of Working Waters Trust

1. Working Waters Trust is a charitable trust dedicated to celebrating the wonders of New Zealand's native freshwater fish and restoring and protecting their habitats. We are trained freshwater ecologists who alongside rūnanga, private landowners, councils, government departments and school and community groups on various freshwater restoration/rehabilitation projects which benefit endangered native freshwater fish and improve water quality.
Read more at www.workingwaters.org or on Facebook
2. We are based in Christchurch, with a contracted Projects Manager, five trustees and a wide range of volunteers who help us with our work. Our projects are spread across catchments in Canterbury, Otago and Southland.
3. Working Waters Trust issues a disclaimer that Environment Canterbury Councillor Lan Pham is a trustee of Working Waters Trust. This has been recognised as a potential conflict of interest, which has been mitigated through the exclusion of Lan Pham from discussion and preparation of this submission to Environment Canterbury.

General comments:

4. Working Waters Trust requests allocation within the LTP of **10k funding per annum** for 3 years (2018-2020) for a 'freshwater biodiversity advice and project support service' that would be available to local rūnanga, catchment and community groups among others in Canterbury for advice for their projects. Currently this service is provided ad hoc and is **unfunded**, however requests outstrip our current resources. Funding would allow this service to be openly advertised for fair access to all and to be expanded.
5. Working Waters Trust **recommends** the establishment of an open contestable 'community environment fund'. This will be available to Not-For-Profit entities, to undertake environmental work that fits within all portfolios of Environment Canterbury, for example Biodiversity and Biosecurity, Freshwater Management, and Climate Change. There should be no required co-funding threshold as a criterion to apply, as required co-funding is often a barrier to initiating projects

for Not-For-Profit organisations. Funding for all projects, not exclusively for on-the-ground physical works, should be eligible. The fund should allow funding for resource consent applications and their preparation, as well as expert technical support where required.

Strategic Priorities:

6. Working Waters Trust **supports** the elevation of 'Freshwater Management' and 'Indigenous Biodiversity' as strategic priorities of Environment Canterbury work within the next 10 years. These are areas where we agree there should be a step-change, due to the significant issues that need to be tackled, and high feasibility for greater outcomes.

Regional Leadership:

7. Working Waters Trust **recommends** more resourcing for compliance activities, particularly to be able to carry out 'shot checks' on a sample of rural landowners who carry out Permitted activities under the RMA /Land and Water Regional Plan, to assess any general issues with compliance, with follow through consequences for any gross breaches.

Biodiversity and Biosecurity :

8. Working Waters Trust **recommends** the continuance of 'Networking for the Environment' events– an initiative facilitated by Environment Canterbury.

Freshwater Management:

9. Working Waters Trust **supports** the focus areas of wetlands and braided rivers. In addition we **recommend** an additional focus area of protection of at-risk 'lowland streams/water races with currently high biodiversity values'. These values could be the presence of kekewai (freshwater crayfish), Canterbury mudfish, or whitebait species for example.
10. Working Waters Trust **supports** the appointment of additional Cultural Land Management Advisors, particularly if the roles are able to work with not-for-profit/ community organisations to provide localised cultural advice, not just supporting landowners on-farm.

Revenue and Financing Policy:

11. Working Waters Trust **supports** the proposed rates rises of 4.5% for the next few years. To fund initiatives proposed in this submission, rates could be increased slightly, with a cap at 5%.
12. Working Waters Trust **supports** both the proposed level of debt borrowing as it is below the quantified limit of 175% of total rates revenue, and the reduction in expected level of debt by 2027/28.