
From: WET manager
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Subject: LTP submission
Attachments: WET submission ECAN LTP 2018-28.pdf

Please find attached the Waihora Ellesmere Trusts submission on the Long Term Plan.

Regards Denise

WET manager
Waihora Ellesmere Trust General Manager

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March 26, 2018

Environment Canterbury
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140

Submission on the Draft Long Term Plan 2018-28

Waihora Ellesmere Trust (WET) is a community organisation dedicated to the improvement of the health and biodiversity of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and its catchment. WET was formed in 2003 to implement a community strategy, developed through community consultation over a period of two years. It focused on raising awareness of the values associated with Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and promoting good management practices to benefit the health and biodiversity of the Lake and catchment. For the objects of the Trust and our mission statement, please see Appendix 1.

WET has a current Memorandum of Understanding with Environment Canterbury. The common intention of the Parties in entering into the MOU was to:

Work together towards achieving the vision and objects of the Trust and; to seek and encourage co-operation and participation by other individuals and organisations with an interest in the Lake to contribute to the achievement of the visions and objects of the Trust.

WET's activities:

WET is actively involved in the Te Waihora catchment and many projects which contribute to progressing Environment Canterbury's Priorities, including:

- Hosting, in partnership with key agencies, a biennial Living Lake Symposium, focusing on Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and reporting on the State of the Lake to the community. The last symposium was held in November 2017.
- Collating monitoring data from agencies, universities and others and publishing a report on the state of Te Waihora and the catchment. The State of The Lake Reports were published in 2013, 2015 and in 2017 <http://www.wet.org.nz/projects/2017-state-of-the-lake/> in conjunction with the Living Lake Symposiums.
- Facilitating the Te Waihora Agencies Group, which provides for regular exchange of information between agencies, and provides information and updates to key governance and management forums such as the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group and the Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee
- Coordinating the annual Te Waihora wetland bird survey, in partnership with DOC, CCC, OSNZ and ECAN
- Working with local schools and the wider community to raise awareness of the special values of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere

- Member of the Lake Opening Protocol Group
- Providing support for research and being a source of local information

Comments on the draft Long-Term Plan

We are pleased to see that freshwater management and indigenous biodiversity are Environment Canterbury's two top priorities. We believe that, as an independent, long standing and trusted community group, WET can make a positive contribution to helping Environment Canterbury achieve the goals associated with these priorities.

Regional Leadership

WET applauds the emphasis on maintaining strong and effective relationships with a number of identities including non-government organisations. The Trust believes that it is advantageous to Environment Canterbury to have an independent body such as the Waihora Ellesmere Trust working in spaces such as hosting the Living Lake Symposium. WET supports funding which gives NGO's the capacity and confidence to go about their day to day business.

Freshwater Management

WET is support of ECAN increasing the focus on environmental monitoring and especially welcomes focused attention on water monitoring, state of environment reporting and providing data in a meaningful way to end users.

However, WET would also like to see biodiversity, recreational use and measurements of connection to people and water bodies integrated into monitoring effects.

The biennial Living Lake Symposium along with the State of the Lake Report contributes to the overview of the lakes health and contributes to providing this data to a wide range of the community. WET also contributes to other monitoring such as the annual bird count at Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere 2018 was the sixth year this event has been held.

Biodiversity and Biosecurity

WET applauds Environment Canterbury working alongside other agencies, and supporting individuals and groups to protect our indigenous biodiversity.

Step-Change: We feel there is a lack of clarity of what 'step-change in effect' means. WET may have been able to comment in more detail if the explanation of this was more in-depth. However, Environment Canterbury will need to continue supporting community groups who are doing work to protect biodiversity to achieve measurable change.

Working with Landowners:

WET welcomes the continuation of Immediate Step funding.

WET also welcomes continued support for non-government agencies as partners, particularly in investing in the capacity building and co-ordinating of environmental groups. Community groups such as WET require and provide an independent voice to enable them to continue representing the community, funding sources are critical for this to continue. MOU's with agencies such as ECAN gives clear relationships and boundaries. However, funding via work-based contracts will also provide clearer outcomes in the long term.

Biosecurity Changes:

WET supports the proposal to expand the current Banks Peninsula Community Initiative Programme and the development of a community partnership. WET would like to see the area around Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere (especially Kaitorete Spit) as part of the vision for a pest free peninsula. The Spit is an important habitat for birds (including nesting), rare invertebrates and lizards. A pest free Spit is an achievable goal, and is one which WET is willing to take a lead on. The north east section of the lake has the potential to be a buffer for Banks Peninsula and the Port Hills.

Hazards

Climate change integration:

WET welcomes an attempt to integrate and give profile to climate change.

Finance

WET supports Environment Canterbury facilitating with landowners who are developing Farm Environment Plans (FEP) and who require funding to allow them to protect and/or enhance biodiversity on their land. WET has in the past undertaken facilitation roles and believes it has the skills and expertise to work in this space to achieve the best outcomes for all parties.

What WET is seeking

WET's vision for Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere is a place where environmental, customary, commercial and recreational values are balanced while respecting the health of the Lake.

WET is seeking ongoing engagement and funding support from Environment Canterbury to enable delivery of this vision through community engagement, agency facilitation, and educational opportunities.

To enable WET to continue to fulfil the vision and objectives of the Trust the Trust is seeking:

- **Continuity of funding and other support for Waihora Ellesmere Trust**
Support from Environment Canterbury and others is greatly appreciated and has allowed WET to function very effectively, with a high degree of stability both in the makeup of the Trust Board and the staff. WET enjoys a high level of trust from the Community as the Trust offers an element of independence and impartiality. Therefore significant value can be added to Environment Canterbury activities through WET's support and promotion.

- **Te Waihora Agencies Group**

Environment Canterbury to continue to take the lead in contracting the facilitation of the Te Waihora Agencies Group to Waihora Ellesmere Trust. The Agencies collectively have been willing to fund the facilitation of this group and ECAN acting as the fund-holder ensures that this happens.

- **Living Lake Symposia and State of the Lake Reporting**

Continued support for the facilitation of the integrated biennial reporting to the community on the state of the lake and catchment, with provision of data, technical assistance, and staff time for the planning and hosting of the Living Lake Symposia and the publication of the State of the Lake Reports.

WET wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

Kind regards,



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Chair, Waihora Ellesmere Trust

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Appendix 1

The objects of Waihora Ellesmere Trust, reflecting the community vision, are:

- (i) To promote and, where appropriate, support best management practices as a means of maintaining and/or enhancing the ecological health of Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora, including its tributaries;
- (ii) To raise awareness regarding the cultural and historical significance of the lake and its environs, including its settlement history and status;
- (iii) To provide appropriate dialogue opportunities for decision-making to ensure the various economic, social, cultural, recreational and environmental interests are considered;
- (iv) To maintain the sense of place and character that makes the lake and its environs special to current residents and users, and for future generations;
- (v) To raise awareness and understanding of the values of the lake to recreational and other users to ensure the integrity of the lake is not compromised;
- (vi) In attaining its objects the Trust shall recognise the views and expectations of Mana Whenua, to respect and implement dual heritage of the partners of Te Tiriti O Waitangi.

Our mission statement:

Waihora Ellesmere Trust (WET) is a community organisation dedicated to the improvement of the health and biodiversity of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and its catchment.

Acknowledging the past and looking to the future, we:

- **Educate** - enhancing understanding, awareness and the values of the Lake through education programmes, newsletters, and field days.
- **Facilitate** -promoting better management practices through public seminars and by partnering with private landowners, community groups and government agencies.
- **Activate** - providing opportunities and encouragement for people to get actively involved in projects to rehabilitate the ecosystem through riparian and wetland enhancement.

Working to make our place better.