

Make Submission

Consultee	Dr Colin Meurk (77741)
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Address	11 Woodbridge Rd CHRISTCHURCH 8022
Event Name	Long-Term Plan 2018-28 Consultation
Submission by	Dr Colin Meurk (77741)
Submission ID	2018-28 LTP -1546
Response Date	26/03/18 4:17 PM
Consultation Point	Biodiversity and Biosecurity (View)
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.1

Biodiversity and Biosecurity Support/Oppose

See page 8 of the Consultation Document.

Please select one of the following:

I generally agree with the activity proposed for Biodiversity and Biosecurity.

Biodiversity and Biosecurity Comments

Please provide any comments.

The Canterbury Plains has the **lowest level of retained natural character**, ecological integrity and natural habitat anywhere in NZ and probably the world. We promote a clean green image. Tourists come here to experience our unique beauty and character; but there is nothing unique and no story to tell if our biodiversity and cultural icons are invisible and our brand is desecrated.

Planting trees as offsets for on-going attrition **do not compensate** for the complexity of natural primary ecosystems being lost no matter how degraded they are.

In the time the **Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy** has existed, the attrition has continued.

The high country basins are going down the same path; except there are still some semi-natural landscapes surviving but are under threat. It is despicable that not only is the total area of natural habitat declining, but the entire foreground experience of our mountain-scapes (such as Aoraki-Mt Cook National Park) are blotted out by irrigated pastures, exotic conifer shelter belts, birch and other weed trees, or seasonal lupins. Not even the highway corridors are protected. There appears to be no integrated planning for the future of the Region.

There are 4 important components of biodiversity protection.

- 1 Protect remaining primary habitat – it is not enough anymore to rank what is left and preserve only the 'best of the best'. That has been tried and failed for the past 30 years. ALL remnants must now be protected.
- 2 Eradicate or control biosecurity risks - Including Wilding conifers & many other species – sycamore, yew, ivy, holly, ash, etc. and exotic predators. These otherwise are building up to be time bombs in the landscape and will become impossible to deal with.
- 3 Restore and rebuild lost habitat including supporting several **eco-sanctuaries** that provide Cantabrians with an experience of their charismatic endangered wildlife – for residents and visitors.
- 4 Develop a culture that acknowledges and celebrates our biodiversity as an international duty and a cornerstone of place-making or identity and overall well-being.

Some Specific Actions

- 1 Collate existing data on remnants; set up a moratorium on land development on uncultivated land; provide firm guidelines on management, covenants, acquisition, conservation, or other incentives as required.
- 2 Fund pest management by contract and community with proper training, supervision and equipping. Face up to disputes about poisons and endeavour to resolve conflicts; set up a rapid reaction team that can deal with biosecurity outbreaks as they occur. Overall, there needs to be a surge of funding for eliminating the wilding problem and making inroads and changing culture and status of many other exotic species.
- 3 Apply best practice restoration, eco-sourcing, and contract in production of big trees available for landscaping in prominent locations (not out of sight, out of mind); provide and apply best information at site and landscape level. And support several eco-sanctuary proposals for the City and Region. All landscape designs should have ecological expertise involved at beginning and throughout the planning and implementation phases to avoid costly errors and unsustainable designs.
- 4 Education needs to start at home with staff, and be widely spread to the public, with leaders being role models in appropriate messaging and actions (I note that the CEO has frequently been out with community groups planting native trees - big tick) - this involves increasing ecological literacy throughout the population; fulfil the Treaty partnership with mana whenua for each Rohe being involved with protecting the mauri across the Region. In other words a culture shift is needed. Employ citizen science to exchange information and advice – it is one of effective ways of engaging people of all ages using social media. One specific action is the need to move away from this distant submission approach for engaging community opinion. Experienced knowledgeable people are burning out through donor fatigue; there are decades-old approaches involving 'collaborative learning', co-creation, and representative (QBL) technical advisory groups that take account of community needs and aspirations and problem solve around opportunities and constraints. The submission process is cumbersome, ineffectual, distrusted, very last-century and no longer fit for purpose. One of key concerns is that there is no way that busy people, in a month, can get their heads around writing a one liner that captures all the nuances of an issue. Everything is connected and there needs to be a joined up approach across the board, the executive, staff and citizens.

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Address	11 Woodbridge Rd CHRISTCHURCH 8022
Event Name	Long-Term Plan 2018-28 Consultation
Submission by	Dr Colin Meurk (77741)
Submission ID	2018-28 LTP -1559
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Consultation Point	Biodiversity and Biosecurity (View)
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.1

Biodiversity and Biosecurity Support/Oppose

See page 8 of the Consultation Document.

Please select one of the following:

I generally agree with the activity proposed for Biodiversity and Biosecurity.

Biodiversity and Biosecurity Comments

Please provide any comments.

This is on behalf of myself Dr Colin D Meurk & Bruce White for Waitākiri Eco-sanctuary (<https://www.facebook.com/ecocitynz/>)

We wish to be heard

Specifically Parks and Biodiversity

The Canterbury Region is the largest population centre in the country whose peoples are deprived of one of their important birth-rights – **access to a personal experience of the regions iconic, charismatic and highly endangered wildlife**. This has implications for visitors and tourism. Lowland Canterbury is generally not seen as having biodiversity or conservation merit and yet Christchurch City sports an **equivalent level of biodiversity to that of our National Parks**. We just have failed to capitalise on this asset or natural wealth.

The only way to bring understanding and protectiveness towards our biodiversity in all its complexity and intricacy is to make available personal transformative experience of our natural ecosystem by providing predator-free sanctuaries. These can only be achieved as oceanic islands surrounded by 2 km of water or as 'mainland islands' that are intensively pest-controlled or fenced. We have an

opportunity to join a well-established wetland nature reserve (Travis Wetland) with Residential Red Zone land to form the **Waitākiri Eco-Sanctuary**.

This fits the 3rd broad objective for biodiversity conservation in the region proposed in a separate personal submission by Dr Colin Meurk – that is, “to restore and rebuild lost habitat including supporting several **eco-sanctuaries** that provide Cantabrians with an experience of their charismatic endangered wildlife – for residents and visitors”. This would anchor an **eco-city** and **eco-region** concept that has been previously put before Regenerate CHCH.

Importantly such a proposal would be the cheapest by an order of magnitude of the various activity/amenity centres that have been proposed to contribute to the CHCH recovery via the RRZ. Importantly it is not about being the one and only such sanctuary. Canterbury needs and deserves several just as Wellington, Waikato and Auckland have.

The Specific Action sought is for ECan to materially support Central Government and CCC in developing the **Waitākiri Eco-Sanctuary** incorporating the long-established and highly used Travis Wetland Nature Heritage Park and associated RRZ as per proposals made in recent years (available on request). And thereby to provide a wildlife stepping-stone, through space out to the wider region via the ‘halo effect’, and potentially through time to an aspirational Predator Free NZ (PFNZ).

This will be an important complement to fulfilling ECan’s avowed **biodiversity strategy**. It may have to be considered a transitional feature as Sea Level Rise comes into play; but should be protected for up to 200 years through practicable and affordable means – at which point we will either have PFNZ or the sanctuary will be moved inland.

As such ECan should contribute to on-going maintenance costs in order that this sanctuary can continue to function and fulfil its role in the overall Biodiversity Strategy.

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Event Name	Long-Term Plan 2018-28 Consultation
Submission by	Dr Colin Meurk (77741)
Submission ID	2018-28 LTP -1574
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Submission Type	Web
Version	0.1
Whole Plan Support/Oppose	
Please select one of the following:	I generally agree with the activity proposed for the Long-Term Plan.

Whole Plan Comments

Please provide any comments.

This is submitted on behalf of myself (Dr Colin D Meurk), and Judith Millar (Chairperson) – for the Christchurch360Trail Incorporated Society (<http://christchurch360trail.org.nz/>)

We wish to be heard

Specifically Related to Regional Parks, Recreation and Biodiversity

Over 20 years ago a Perimeter Walkway was established around CHCH city. This was formalised and launched in 2015 as the Christchurch 360 Trail. The Northern Part of The Trail passes along The Waimakariri Regional Park and uses its walkways and cycle-ways.

There needs to be improved coordination of CCC, ECan, NZTA, iwi, Canterbury University and our Society in terms of rationalising, operating, and managing the increasingly acclaimed walkway. ECan has already been involved informally with the Society, and with one of our sponsors, The Rotary Club, in enhancing the environment along the 'Sanctuary' on the Waimakariri river bank. We look forward to this continuing.

Being able to market this activity and route is critical to gaining the tourist advantage we have sought to achieve for the City and Region. As such we believe it warrants having "Great Walk" status - the first urban example in the country but as diverse as any of the conventional Great Walks. As soon as

the trail is signed off and nailed down (in terms of health and safety) we propose to **promote it as a Great Walk**.

Specific Action sought

Appropriate staff to engage with the Society and CCC to rationalise the routes and get the best, most direct and most diverse location for this, and ensure different arms of Council know what each other is planning and promoting. And to provide on-going maintenance of the relevant dual use trails within the McLeans Island and Waimakariri Regional Parks; and to promote the overall concept and to link this marketing with the Banks Peninsula Trails and other regional routes BUT to make sure policy, planning and implementation are properly integrated and coordinated.