

From: steve@futerivers.co.nz
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: Plan Change 7 to the LWRP Submission
Date: Friday, 13 September 2019 12:22:57 PM

Dear Ecan

I have a number of concerns regarding Plan Change 7;

- Firstly the manner in which PC7 has been compiled, using input from Zone Committees that clearly have a bias to toward industry interests in many instances, without the balance of real community involvement.
- That the document is very difficult to follow and understand, without a clear easy to follow summary of key points. It is unreasonable to expect proper consultation on this important document when it is presented so poorly. I suggest it should be done again!
- Section- Habitat of Indigenous Freshwater Species Policy 4.102: I support Fish and Games submissions raising concerns that this policy may seek to restrict access to some water ways for trout and salmon – these species are valued sports fish, protected by the RMA, and any restriction on access to water ways should be avoided – What will benefit both Indigenous fish and sports fish the most is to restore water quality, quantity and habitat across the regions rivers and streams
- The nitrate targets are set too high throughout the plan and should be brought in line with scientific best practise
- Timelines for reducing nitrate losses from land are too slow – this issue has been signalled for many years, the agricultural communities have known, and have had time to address these issues already, with leading farmers showing the way, whilst those whom have chosen not to, need to be given a hurry up, as they have no right to pollute the publics resources of freshwater for personal profit
- Best practise guidelines for intensive winter grazing need to be implemented, the suggested 20 hectares minimum land parcel sizing requiring a consent is too big, even 5 hectares in the wrong place can surely damage waterways with sediment inundation.
- River minimum flows should be raised to reflect scientific best practise – recent new guideline from the Cawthron institute suggest the way forward here <https://www.cawthron.org.nz/coastal-freshwater/news/2017/cawthron-research-shows-greater-river-flow-needed-fish-growth-and-abundance/>
- With significant new water policy guideline signalled by the Govt, I expect that the hearing panel will give the science behind the Govt’s view significant weight, and seek to implement that science of best practise across the board in all decisions – so as to as quickly as possible, restore all our waterways to the high quality that the public expects
- I also request the hearing panel takes a cautious approach and gives weight to the recent studies into the link between nitrates in drinking water and bowel cancer, considering NZs high rates of bowel cancer, to ignore the possible link between the two and not proactively work to reduce nitrates quickly in our water would, in my opinion, be unnecessarily risking public health and wellbeing
-

Kind Regards

Steve Gerard

Future Rivers
6587 Rakaia Gorge Arundel Road
RD 12
Rakaia

Phone: 0800 100 515