

## Comments

### LTP 2021-31

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First name	Liz
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Surname	Weir
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Email address

Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?	No, I'm submitting as an individual
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Which age category are you in?	-
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Do you have any further comments on the activities proposed in specific portfolio/s (please select all those you wish to comment on):

Where do you live in Canterbury? Select your district below:	-
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Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Kaikoura

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Hurunui

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Waimakariri

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Christchurch

**Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Selwyn**

**Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Ashburton**

**Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Mackenzie**

**Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Timaru**

**Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Waimate**

**Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Waitaki**

**Do you wish to speak to your submission?** No

**How did you find out about giving feedback?**

*Your information is held and administered by Environment Canterbury in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020 and Environment Canterbury's Privacy Policy.*

**There is personal information/contact details in my submission I do not want disclosed:** No

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Submission on LTP  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 11:11:52 AM

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## **Submission on Environment Canterbury Long Term Plan 2021 – 31**

Liz Weir

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on Ecan's LTP.

I support the following key issues in the LTP:

### **Land and water**

- Increased expenditure for climate change mitigation, including coastal erosion, removing historic landfills beside waterways, recovery of toxic contaminants adjacent to surface water bodies or above shallow aquifers and sediment control from future flooding events.
- Aligning sub regional and regional plans with the Government's proposed Essential Freshwater Reforms 2024.

- Stronger regulation to improve water quality and meet climate change targets.
- I would like to see a reduction in dairy cow numbers on the plains and a limit on synthetic fertiliser and chemical use. Because there are areas where aquifers and rivers are under stress from over-extraction, there should be no new dairy conversions. There should be no new water consents granted for dairy conversion in already over allocated catchments.
- Improve water quality to meet drinking water standard. A continued increase in high nitrate levels in aquifers and wells is putting public health at risk. Overseas studies are linking bowel cancer to high nitrate levels in drinking water; there are already indications that this is happening in areas of NZ where intensive dairying occurs. Nitrogen level limits for freshwater should be reduced to the overseas recommendation of 1mg/L.
- Full protection of source water in pristine alpine rivers, lakes, and wetlands from land use intensification. Limit agricultural intensification in the upper catchments and ban dairy farming and dairy support in subalpine regions. We are seeing agricultural 'creep' into pristine areas with fragile ecosystems. These areas need to be protected from intensification.
- Braided river revival.
- Stronger regulation to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity. Biodiversity has rapidly declined since agricultural intensification. Protect

remaining wetlands, and bring in stronger regulations for protecting remaining native flora and fauna.

- Planting of natives instead of pine forests for carbon sequestration and enhance biodiversity.
  - Support control of Wilding trees and weed removal (inc. Russel lupins) and the need for wallaby control.
  - I support an increase to the number of compliance staff and the need for stronger initiatives, enforcement, and prosecution for offences. Consequences for breaking consent conditions need to be stronger and enforceable.
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- Full public participation in resource consent decision making.

I do not support the following proposed expenditure:

- The Uniform Annual Charge (UAC). This charge is unfairly punitive on people on lower incomes. Those on a fixed or limited income cannot afford to pay this extra charge. The UAC should be deleted and fees for the activities included in the targeted rate.
- Borrowing for shortfall funding. This will place an unfair burden on future generations in already uncertain climate conditions.
- Discharges of contaminants directly to water bodies.
- Non notified consents.
- The costs of Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) projects. These costs should not be paid for by taxpayers or ratepayers. MAR projects are unproven, and not a substitute for strong regulatory framework to manage and control runoff from fertiliser and animal effluent. Removing water from rivers to replenish aquifers is too risky for the environment ; what long term effects will this have on the diverse flora and fauna in the rivers and in underground waterways? This is also yet another example of asking the wider community to pay for remediation of a situation which has been created by the dairy industry. If anyone is to fund this research, it should be the farming sector, not the general ratepayer.
- Further funding for Zone committees. It is time to disband zone committees, they represent vested interests and not the community. Water quality has continued to decline, not improve since zone committees were established. They have not achieved any good results for the environment and have cost ratepayers millions of dollars each year.

I do not wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Liz Weir

