

Comments

LTP 2021-31

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First name	Andrew
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Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation? No, I'm submitting as an individual

Are you willing to tell us more about yourself? Yes

Which age category are you in? 40-64 years old

Which suburb or area do you live in?

Do you think we've prioritised the right issues and opportunities? No

What do you feel are the significant challenges and opportunities we face?

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the long-term plan for the environment in Canterbury.

It has become increasingly obvious to me that the choices we have made as a community have impacted negatively on the environment in which we live. As our population increases, and as our lifestyles change then these negative impacts are compounded over days, months, years, and decades. It's human nature and social conditioning to want to buy and consume more, to grow, develop, produce at an ever-increasing pace. While some individuals are making small changes in the right direction, without structural, legal, and systemic change it will be impossible to effect change at scale. I ask Environment Canterbury to be that voice, to make the decisions that will protect our environment. The insects, birds, fish, the forests, the waterway: the ecosystem where we live.

I would suggest while you call this a long-term plan, it's for just 10-years. that will go in the blink of an eye. To me the decisions that you make today are truly long-term, some affecting fifty, one hundred, a thousand years, or into perpetuity for example an ecosystem lost or a species extinct.

Please take a cautious approach, decisions should be weighted heavily away from the whims of society,

commerce, or special interests group. They should focus solely on the health of the environment. Freshwater is perhaps one of the most significant issues facing Canterbury at this time. The more I learn about the state of our freshwater, the more I am alarmed and shocked. While there is growing evidence on the impact on human health from nitrates in our waterways and groundwater, the impact on our fish, insects, birds is so clear for everyone to see. Reductions and mitigations are not fast enough to protect these at-risk and endangered areas. Selwyn river trout numbers have dropped from as high as 200,000 to less than 20. Nitrate levels are often recorded above 10mg/L. I am learning new words such as Nitrate toxicity, just as I learned about acid rain when I was at school in the '80s. I love and fully endorse the concept behind Te Mana o te Wai, environment Canterbury must put the health and well-being of the water at the forefront of all decisions. Section 30 of the RMA 1991 provides an obligation for Environment Canterbury to maintain and enhance the regions

- > Freshwater quantity
- > Freshwater quality
- > Freshwater ecosystem

I would suggest that this is not being achieved, and ECan must control land use better to achieve these requirements:

- > Quality- There are numerous rivers that are graded in poor or very poor condition, and this trend is worsening.
- > Quantity - The river flows are reducing, being more controlled, less natural.
- > Ecosystem - Te ecosystem, the fish, the insects, the birds, and the rest of the food chain is suffering.

We all must do more. Urban and rural. Ecan needs to lead.

Do you have any further comments on the activities proposed in specific portfolio/s (please select all those you wish to comment on):

Is the proposed increase in rates affordable for your household? Neither option is affordable

Is the proposed increase in rates affordable as a whole for the Canterbury community? Don't know

Where do you live in Canterbury? Select your district below: Christchurch city including Banks Peninsula

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 Other initiative/s (please specify)

Other initiative/s (please specify) Christchurch

If the aquifers are managed more sustainably they should not need recharging.

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

Any further comments?

The public must be granted the opportunity to be heard on any and every decision made by elected officials and Ecan on any delegated authority that has consequences for public health and the environment

Environment Canterbury must prioritise and resource an urgent plan change to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan, that actively provides for public input when processing resource consents that have consequences for public health and the environment. Until then these consents should not be granted.

Environment Canterbury should have a one-page online dashboard summarising trends of river water and aquifer volume and quality. These should source all information on these topics since records began. For example, for the Selwyn River I should be able to view all data and trends

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