

Comments

LTP 2021-31

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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? 65+ years old

Which suburb or area do you live in?

Do you think we've prioritised the right issues and opportunities? Yes

Which of the proposed options would you like to see us progress with? Option 1: statutory work, prior commitments and accelerating key initiatives

It is important that we hear what you would like to keep in the plan, what you think should be removed, and anything that you think we have missed?

I agree with the general directions of the plan. One thing I think has not had enough emphasis, or even consideration, is ECan working with local councils to agree on designated land use according to regional soil types etc. I think this is necessary because too much fertile arable land in places like Lincoln and Prebbleton and north of Christchurch is being covered with housing, thereby reducing future food security. We cannot continue to allow good arable land to be covered in houses. Places like Rolleston with its shallow soils and stony land are ideal for housing (apart from the incessant wind!).

Do you generally support the activities proposed in the following portfolios:

Water and Land	Yes
Biodiversity and Biosecurity	Yes
Climate Change and Community Resilience	Yes
Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development	Yes
Regional and Strategic Leadership	Yes

Do you have any further comments on the activities proposed in specific portfolio/s (please select all those you wish to comment on):	. Water and Land
	. Biodiversity and Biosecurity
	. Climate Change and Community Resilience
	. Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development

Water and Land portfolio comments:

With regard to land, see above comments. In addition, helping farmers and city dwellers to understand how their activities are impacting the environment is an absolutely necessary activity. In the city, people are building with copper that is polluting the waterways and life within them. On farms, farmers are doing their best, but need help to understand how riparian plantings will influence runoff into waterways, and how their current farming systems and support software such as Overseer do little to discourage high N inputs that result in nitrate leaching into our aquifers.

With regard to water, nitrate leaching is turning into a massive timebomb and Ecan and the government will have to work hard to turn this around. Farmers will need local and national support to do this. It has been known since the first scientific studies in the 1970's that nitrate leaching will become a problem and nothing has been done by successive governments.

Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio comments:

Perhaps a major biodiversity target should be to turn Canterbury's plains from one massive monocultural dairying operation, into more diverse farming activities with less impact on the environment and water use.

Also, the natural high and flow cycles of our rivers used to do much to keep the rivers and river beds clear of algae, weeds etc. and keep the water healthy. Intense irrigation has taken water away from these waterways, and flows are low and stay low. As a result Ecan has to carry out spraying programmes and these are not a good look. Combined with nitrate, phosphate and bacterial pollution, the rivers are now a mess and don't support water life like they used to and people can't use them for fear of being poisoned by toxic algae.

Climate Change and Community Resilience portfolio comments:

See my comments regarding the need for designated land use action. This would also include clarity around the impacts of sea levels rising and flooding low lying areas. People need to be made more aware of this and strategic withdrawal encouraged by Ecan and CCC. Also, with current climate change scenarios, sharing our precious fresh water for everyone's benefit and environmental benefits, not just commercial benefit, becomes essential. I saw in the Canterbury Museum that more than 50% of Canterbury's water is used for irrigation. That is, commercial benefit. In general, people are not buying into the old 'economic benefit' arguments any more. What about social and environmental benefits?

Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development portfolio comments:

I came down from the North Island to live and work in Christchurch in 1983 and back then the air quality in the city was disgusting during the colder months. Ecan and CCC have done well to make air quality so much better now and I hope the same can be achieved for water quality. I'd like to see a much more flexible transport system and the on-demand model sounds good in principle. I also ask for more options, including light rail that uses existing infrastructure to be in the mix. Smaller buses

might also be a good option if combined with more frequent services, greater numbers of buses (shuttles), and greater ease of use. By the latter I mean taking a leaf out of how European bus services operate with their 'Next stop' displays in every bus and on-board route maps to help people get around. This could be implemented as part of the tendering process, whereby successful tenderers would have to incorporate these more user-friendly features in their buses/shuttles. And please, listen to the community. I think it was disgraceful that Ecan took the bus service further away from the retirement village in Papanui.

Is the proposed increase in rates affordable for your household? Option 1 is affordable

Any further comments on affordability for your household?

It seems like a small increase for us, but not necessarily for others on lower retirement incomes.

Is the proposed increase in rates affordable as a whole for the Canterbury community? No

Any further comments on affordability for the community?

With regard to Q19, it may not be affordable but is necessary.

Do you support the changes we're proposing to how we apply Uniform Annual General Charges? Yes

Any further comments on Uniform Annual General Charges?

Yes, but..... I don't support the UAGC's being applied to Recreational Boating Safety. This sector is contributing to increased greenhouse gas emissions, spreading noxious algae etc and terrifying wildlife. They should pay for it through a targeted levy or other means e.g. as part of annual registration - along the lines of how EQC levies are extracted from us.

Would you support the use of borrowing for operating expenditure to offset some of the first year rates? Yes

Any further comments on the use of borrowing for operating expenditure?

While monetary borrowing rates are very low, take advantage of them to ease the burden on ratepayers.

Do you support the rationale and proposed changes in the draft Fees and Charges Policy? Yes

Any further comments on the Fees and Charges Policy?

None

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

- . On-demand public transport services
- . Using aquifer recharge to manage freshwater quality

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?

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Do you wish to speak to your submission? No

Would you like to be kept up-to-date with the outcome of this consultation? Yes

How did you find out about giving feedback?

- . Word of mouth
- . Meeting, hui or event

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