

Comments

LTP 2021-31

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Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?	Yes, I'm submitting on behalf of an organisation
Which organisation are you submitting on behalf of?	Future Rivers Trust
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
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	Unsure
Regional and Strategic Leadership	Unsure
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

Water and Land portfolio comments:

Time frames for improving water quality and quantities are far too long. Agricultural interests keep putting up excuses for why things should not happen faster, yet over the years this same group has continued to intensify their operations knowing full well it was going to impact negatively on the environment, and yet continued.

Agriculture has shown how fast they can change when there are financial benefits to them - eg how fast they can intensify - similarly they can change their operations to provide the mitigation needed in a similarly timely manner - much faster than currently is being asked for in my opinion.

Things that can happen faster

- change all stock water races to piped schemes, where water comes from small streams/rivers find alternatives sources is a good example
- If they must continue with intensive dairy - things like cow barns offer solutions to mitigate nutrient losses - remove the cows from the land, capture the effluent and dispose of it properly.
- Make sure all fish screens are effective
- Time frames for implementation of consent reviews where degradation environments are identified are actioned as quickly as is possible
- Where degraded environments are identified, immediate actions are needed to turn those around, implemented in a timely manner, a manner that puts the environment first, not the polluter – as the polluters have had plenty of notice and time to address these issues already. In fact, it could be argued they entered the process knowing their actions would cause environmental problems and went ahead anyway.

Overseas experience shows the way - likewise agriculture in NZ should not be subsidised to provide an economic advantage at the cost of our environment, and these costs should not be socialised, passed on to the wide community by way of having to fix up the mess

- it is the polluter who needs to pay – that is only reasonable!
- No more intensification should be allowed until the current environmental impacts are mitigated
- All consents to pollute should be notified (eg MHV)

It is notable that MHV a few years ago chose to increase its irrigated area knowing there were significant existing environmental issues, knowing they would be adding to these in doing so, and knowing that they could have used that same water to mitigate those impacts already within the environment (eg Stream augmentation - Hinds River and MARS) - They chose not to do the later

I do not support MARS where the water used is taken directly for that purpose from an already over abstracted river. The only time it is acceptable is where the water comes from existing consented irrigation takes. After all, the reason we need MARS is because of over abstraction and pollution of the ground water by agricultural interests – And I suggest MARS schemes are more about underground water storage as much as anything else. Fix the cause of the problem rather than attempt to treat the symptoms.

I genuinely believe there are win – win solutions available to the agricultural industry that would earn them significant good will if only they would look beyond the immediate gains. For instance, restore the flow in the Hinds river with freed up low nutrient irrigation water, such approaches would generate significant community benefit, enhance the country's flagging clean green image, and give the ag. Industry something significant to hold up as 'real mitigation'

Fencing and planting streams are good initiatives, but that does not address the key pollutant which are the nitrates that migrate via ground water into stream and rivers. Robust action is needed to stop this leaching as soon as possible, with real reductions that will significantly reduce leaching to bring this problem under control

The demise of the Stokell's Smelt are indicative of changes within the lower reaches of rivers and the coastal waters of Canterbury. Similarly, the sharp decline of the salmon fisheries are further indicators of changing environments. Trout are disappearing from low land and the larger braided rivers. Add in starving sea birds and we have some genuinely concerning trends being established. We need to reverse the adverse impacts we are having on the environment and we need to do it now

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

Any further comments on affordability for your household?

I can afford option 1 - and are happy to pay a part - but more of the cost should be met by the polluters/abstractors with regards to freshwater quality and quantity

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

Do you support the changes we're proposing to how we apply Uniform Annual General Charges? Don't know

Would you support the use of borrowing for operating expenditure to offset some of the first year rates? Don't know

Where do you live in Canterbury? Select your district below: Ashburton district

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

The Hekeao Hinds Managed Aquifer Recharge is a pilot of environmental infrastructure to address water quality. To continue enhancing this infrastructure, the project would require ongoing targeted rates from the Ashburton district. Find out more [link]. Do you want to see this project continue? No

Any further comments on Hekeao Hinds Managed Aquifer Recharge? No

Using water from degraded rivers to replace water taken out for irrigation - how stupid is that? Using water from degraded rivers to dilute pollution in ground water, while further degrading the source river - how stupid is that - stop the pollution and stop the over allocation, then use only existing irrigation water (Not stock water) to supply water for MARS

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?

This process is focused too widely, and is more of an overview, it would be better to focus and provide more detail on individual areas - like freshwater management/reform as a topic in it's own right. I have commented on the areas of interest to our trust, I hope they are relevant

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?

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