

## Comments

### LTP 2021-31

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<b>First name</b>	David
<b>Surname</b>	Miller
<b>Email address</b>	
<b>Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?</b>	Yes, I'm submitting on behalf of an organisation
<b>Which organisation are you submitting on behalf of?</b>	Pest Free Banks Peninsula
<b>Do you think we've prioritised the right issues and opportunities?</b>	Yes
<b>Which of the proposed options would you like to see us progress with?</b>	Option 1: statutory work, prior commitments and accelerating key initiatives
<b>Do you generally support the activities proposed in the following portfolios:</b>	
<b>Water and Land</b>	Yes
<b>Biodiversity and Biosecurity</b>	Yes
<b>Climate Change and Community Resilience</b>	Yes
<b>Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development</b>	Yes
<b>Regional and Strategic Leadership</b>	Yes
<b>Do you have any further comments on the activities proposed in specific portfolio/s (please select all those you wish to comment on):</b>	

**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**

**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?** Yes

*We may use your phone number to contact you to arrange attendance at a hearing. This information will be kept private.*

**Phone number**

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

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

- . Environment Canterbury website
- . Meeting, hui or event
- . Email

*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

09 April 2021

Dear Councillors,

**Re: Draft Long Term Plan Submission from Pest Free Banks Peninsula / Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū (PFBP)**

This submission has been prepared and submitted by the PFBP Project Management Group.

**Summary**

We support the Council's strong emphasis on biodiversity in the LTP and endorse Option 1 presented in the LTP Consultation Document. In particular, we appreciate the Council's support, leadership and commitment to achieving the vision of a Pest Free Banks Peninsula / Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū.

We also support the increased emphasis in the Council's biosecurity programme on preventing the incursion and establishment of pest organisms in Canterbury. While plant and insect pests are outside of our project, we recognise that control of these is critical to the long term outcomes we are seeking for the Banks Peninsula / Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū.

**About Pest Free Banks Peninsula / Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū**

PFBP is a partnership programme of 14 parties, including Environment Canterbury. The partnership was formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in November 2018.

Our aim is to enhance biodiversity, as well as providing cultural, social and economic benefits, by working together to eradicate mammalian pests from the Peninsula / Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū by 2050. This overarching goal is aspirational and inspirational: it will require commitment, collaboration and new methods beyond those currently available. Our approach is to work together, starting with the things we can achieve now, while innovating and adopting new methods as they become available.

**Reasons and context**

Banks Peninsula / Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū is rich in biodiversity. There are many endemic species of flora and fauna on the Peninsula: they are found nowhere else in the country or the world. Many of species found on the Peninsula are classified as endangered or threatened.

Maintaining and enhancing this unique natural heritage through the widespread eradication of animal pests is the primary mission of Pest Free Banks Peninsula / Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū. Like most biodiversity initiatives, it has wider benefits: it supports Ngāi Tahu values, community development and sustainable agriculture and tourism.

The Council's funding over the last two years has been instrumental in bringing this project to life. The Council's funding commitment of \$3M over five years has enabled us to secure a further \$7M from other sources. For the rural ratepayers on the Peninsula who previously contributed to the



community initiated programme (CIP) for possum control, the contribution from other sources has grown from \$0.30 for every dollar they contributed, to \$20 for every dollar.

Through collaborative effort across community based NGOs, Ngāi Tahu and agencies such as DOC, Christchurch City Council and Selwyn District Council, there has already been **significant progress**. This includes:

- Very effective operations towards the elimination of feral goats, with further operations about to recommence following last year's the COVID disruption. We aim to eliminate feral goats within five years.
- Operational planning and community engagement for two world-leading eradication programmes at Kaitorete and the Extended Wildside. At Kaitorete the aim is the eradication of possums, hedgehogs, stoats, rats and feral cats. On the Extended Wildside (26,000ha on the south-eastern corner of the Peninsula), the focus is on the eradication of possums and suppression of feral cats, rats and stoats.
- Fourteen staff have recently been employed, many of whom are locally based on the Peninsula, to implement these programmes.
- Innovation is an essential ingredient to our success and we are working closely with researchers and innovators from the Cacophony Project, Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP), Lincoln University and the University of Canterbury.

All this is possible because of the support and foundation funding from the Council. We look forward to continuing to update you with progress reports.

### **Sowing Seeds**

The PFBP Project Management Group would like to take this opportunity to remind the Council that Pest Free Banks Peninsula is a long-term programme, articulated under Goal 8 of the Banks Peninsula Ecological Vision. We have secured initial funding (particularly from ECan) for an initial five years, but we will very quickly need to develop revenue streams that take us beyond 2024. We therefore respectfully request that the Council considers how it might take PFBP forward at the end of the current 5-year commitment.

Additionally, we are mindful that the current funding arrangement may be placing a significant additional burden on rural landowners and, in order to facilitate a greater equity regarding costs and benefits, we offer two possible options for possible future graduated implementation:

1. Changing the present funding arrangement to 25% coming from a targeted rate and 75% coming from the general rate;
2. Enlarging the area from which the targeted rate is taken – i.e., by expanding the targeted rate area through to the fullest extent of Christchurch City.

Finally, the PFBP Project Management Group is fully supportive of the Option 1 provision for a contestable fund to support environmental project work by local community groups. Pest Free Banks Peninsula is privileged to be working with and alongside some remarkable examples that already have demonstrated impact on improving biodiversity on the peninsula (e.g., as shown by the Summit Road Society, the Rod Donald Trust, and by Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust) and know that increased future demand exists within catchment and trapping groups across the Peninsula and Port Hills.

**Hearings**

We wish to speak to this submission.

We would also welcome the opportunity to give Councillors a fuller overview of the programme at a Council workshop or similar forum. As a community led, landscape-scale programme, we believe there are lessons that are relevant to other parts of the Region. We leave this offer open for a time suitable for the Council.

Yours faithfully,

**Dr David Miller**  
**Chair, PFBP Project Management Committee**