

Comments

LTP 2021-31

Comment ID	944
Response Date	11/04/21 2:59 PM
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.1
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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? 25-39 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?

We need increased and urgent action to address nitrate water pollution in Canterbury. We need strong action and support for climate mitigation projects, and penalties for polluters.

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?

Using certain exotic pioneer plants to promote the growth of natives.
We need more actions that promote carbon sequestration in general, and also specifically in soils.
We need a planned and marked decrease in activities that are known to be damaging to the environment, and also activities that contribute to climate change; starting with the most significant

and impactful activities first.

We need a planned, clear, and marked decrease in dairy and nitrate pollution.

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	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

☐ Climate Change and Community Resilience

Water and Land portfolio comments:

I support:

1. The public being granted the opportunity to be heard, on any decision made by elected representatives or any delegated authority that has consequences for public health and the environment.
2. That Environment Canterbury 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.
3. Other matters I would like Environment Canterbury to consider.

Nitrate pollution needs to be addressed

The current state of our rivers is a disgrace, and we need urgent action on how we manage our freshwater.

Dairy farming practices continue to contribute to the increasing degradation of our waterways, we need bold action to put our environment before profit. The costs we will continue to pay for short-term gain are not worth turning a blind-eye to this issue.

Nitrates in the water present a health-hazard[2], have decimated fish populations from indirect effects[3], and this is having a devastating impact on us and our ecosystems.

We need urgent and emergency action to address this issue.

If dairy farmers are already under-pressure and doing everything they can to address this issue, then perhaps we need to have careful public consultation about whether dairy farming practices are suitable for the Canterbury Region at all.

We need to acknowledge the mistakes that we have made in the past so that we can move forward with kaitiakitanga for our future generations and the environment.

Footnotes

[2] “Otago University’s Dr Tim Chambers said New Zealand should take a precautionary approach and reduce the maximum level from 11.3mg/L to 1mg/L.” -

<<https://www.mz.co.nz/news/national/436088/drinking-water-nitrate-limit-11-times-higher-than-it-should-be-health-expert>>

[3] Dr Michael Joy - “Nutrients need to be managed to prevent excessive periphyton growth from suffocating invertebrates and fish and the effects of their growth oxygen levels if ecosystem health is to be restored or maintained. Nitrogen toxicity is a red herring (no pun intended) because the ecosystem level effects of too much nitrogen mean that fish and other stream life are dead long before nutrient levels get to be toxic.”

<<https://api.ecan.govt.nz/TrimPublicAPI/documents/download/2392832>>

Climate Change and Community Resilience portfolio comments:

Priorities for land-use change, restoration and sequestration

It has been shown on the Hinewai reserve that gorse can be used as an effective canopy species for growing natives. This can present as a perceived conflict with neighbouring pasture farmers as mismanagement and negligence of the land.

We need clear guidelines to address the differences in land-use, and to legitimise practices which will regenerate and restore natives.

Support from ECAN is vital for reforestation efforts using managed pioneer plants to support the growth of natives, as we continue to head towards a worldwide climate crisis.

Canterbury has a huge capacity to sequester carbon, but limited water reserves. According to the FAO, increased plant-cover keeps moisture in the soil and reduces erosion. [1]

We need incentives for land-use change along these lines to decrease erosion and improve carbon sequestration. Examples of land-use change include: plant-based agriculture, permaculture and rewilding of the land. These could all be accomplished with minimal irrigation if planned appropriately.

It also means, that any pest control of exotic plants and trees needs to be carefully considered against the cons of drying out the land by stripping it bare.

The natural carbon cycle of allowing trees and plant matter to decay on the land, would improve soil quality and increase the amount of organic carbon that can be sequestered in the soil. We need effective land management policies that reverse nutrient depletion in the soil.

Alternatives to how we manage the land to effectively capture carbon need to be considered in response to the current climate crisis.

Footnotes

[1] According to the FAO <<http://www.fao.org/3/T1765E/t1765e0h.htm>>

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

Any further comments on affordability for your household?

I rent, so I have no idea how this will affect me.

Is the proposed increase in rates affordable as a whole for the Canterbury community? Yes

Any further comments on affordability for the community?

Polluters should bear the brunt of costs for environmental issues.

Dairy farms should be bearing the brunt of costs for ecosystem restoration, or be supported in changing land-use.

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? Yes

Do you support the rationale and proposed changes in the draft Fees and Charges Policy? Don't know

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

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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other initiative/s (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other initiative/s (please specify) Christchurch

Reforestation of the port-hills

A framework to support land-use change and growing natives to increase biodiversity.

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

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