

## Comments

### LTP 2021-31

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<b>Surname</b>	Gould

**Email address**

**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?

If as the plan states "Our vision and purpose : Taking action together to shape a thriving and resilient Canterbury, now and for future generation" this plan seems likely to fall well short of realizing this vision. While the right issues have been prioritized the plan seems to focus mainly on addressing the symptoms of the current environmental crisis. In order to be a truly transformative plan it needs to start addressing its underlying causes.

Obviously, fundamentally transforming the growth based, profit driven, exploitative linear (Take -> Make -> Throw-away) economy is clearly beyond the scope of the current plan. Nevertheless, only by taking urgent steps both globally, locally and individually to move towards a truly circular economy, modelled on nature (which has sustained life on earth for almost 4 billion years by reusing and recycling everything) will building a genuinely sustainable future be possible.

Among actions which could start moving the plan in this direction would include;

- funding major campaigns of public education and awareness raising to alert the population of Canterbury of the consequences of not changing our current lifestyles and business-as-usual approach urgently.

- getting people to reduce their carbon footprints by incentivizing carpooling, active transport (walking, cycling, scootering) and promoting public transport (by making it free, if not for all at least for Community Cardholders & youth under 25)

**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?**

The plan encompasses the relevant set of issues but much more emphasis needs to be placed on public education and engagement address the global biodiversity loss, climate crisis and pollution. This will require truly transformative change at all levels in society which the plan in no way adequately addresses, but rather tinkers around the edges with an emphasis on mitigation, adaptation and only minor support for building the resilience and public awareness that will be needed to face the existential challenge humanity is facing over the coming decades.

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

<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>	<input type="checkbox"/> Water and Land
	<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity and Biosecurity
	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change and Community Resilience
	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional and Strategic Leadership

**Water and Land portfolio comments:**

On page 3 of Supplementary Information document Ecan acknowledges that "water quality is poor in urban areas and where land is/has been intensively farmed". The long term trend over recent decades of agricultural intensification particularly relating to dairy farming, which is driving the degradation of both surface and groundwater quality, needs to be reversed. Much stronger regulation, monitoring and enforcement of nitrate limits etc. are needed with greater funding and human resource directed to this area.

The export of billions of litres of pristine Canterbury groundwater to China for sale in plastic bottles, make no economic or ecological sense and is virtually the definition of unsustainability. Ecan should use all its powers to prevent this kind of development, which enriches a small minority at the expense of the majority and the planet.

**Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio comments:**

Regeneration of priority native habitats and creation of corridors and linkages would be an important way to protect biodiversity, as would restoration of our pest and weed clogged braided rivers and of native forest as a carbon sink wherever possible. Stronger regulation and enforcement to moderate the impacts of activities such as intensive dairy farming which degrade the water quality of streams, rivers and lakes would also help to protect native aquatic species.



### **Climate Change and Community Resilience portfolio comments:**

Implementation of the Climate change Action plan should start with immediate effect and not wait until 2024 as per the plan. Among actions which could be strengthened in the plan to address the current Climate Emergency would be:

- funding major campaigns of public education and awareness raising to alert the population of Canterbury of the consequences of climate change and of not changing our current lifestyles and business-as-usual approach.
- awareness raising initiatives to get people to reduce their carbon footprints by incentivizing carpooling, active transport and promoting public transport (see details in answer to Qu. 9 above)
- encouraging all Cantabrians to engage in tree planting initiatives and native bush restoration projects to help mitigate the GHG emissions and stem loss of biodiversity.

### **Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development portfolio comments:**

In Canterbury, while there has been progress since the earthquakes regarding the development of some climate friendly transport infrastructure in Christchurch, most notably the excellent new cycleway network, there have also been some major setbacks. The most serious of these being some poor urban planning and design. Car dependent satellite settlements having been promoted and developers assisted in places such as Rolleston and Lincoln with little thought of their future climate change impacts.

The region has a number of light railway lines and a good, but thoroughly under-utilized, bus network. There are real opportunities to transform the transport culture of the region. For example, through the development of a commuter rail service between Christchurch CBD and Rolleston, Kaiapoi etc.

Ecan should also set targets for increasing bus patronage and achieve these by offering major incentives to get people to more fully utilize the bus network eg. a free pass for all Community card holders and everyone under 25 (similar to the free daytime bus use available to Goldcard holders). Other measures might include, priority lanes during rush hour for those practicing carpooling.

Active transport walking, biking and scootering should also be incentivized and potentially the biggest game changer, the increased use of Ebikes and E-scooters could be promoted through more dedicated cycle ways. There are numerous excellent models overseas regarding integrated urban transport and compact urban design which need to be swiftly adopted in Canterbury.

A free electric bus shuttle orbiting the CBD in both directions similar to the one the city had prior to the earthquakes should be urgently reinstated.

Public education campaigns promoting more sustainable forms of transport and highlighting their numerous benefits in terms of physical and mental well-being, financial savings as well as emissions reduction should be supported.

### **Regional and Strategic Leadership portfolio comments:**

While it is good to see that funding and support for "Engagement and Influence" aimed particularly at young people through school programs, Maori and community groups, it would be good to see more resource being put into this area to broaden the engagement to the public at large, with continuous messaging in the media about actions which can promote sustainability.

This could include major campaigns of public education and awareness raising to alert the population of Canterbury of the consequences of climate change. Awareness raising initiatives to get people to reduce their carbon footprints by incentivizing carpooling, active transport and promoting public transport (see details in answer to Qu. 9 above) should also be implemented, aimed at all age groups and ethnicities.

These campaigns could also promote tree planting initiatives and native bush restoration projects to help mitigate the GHG emissions and stem loss of biodiversity.

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

**Any further comments on affordability for your household?**

Option 1 is affordable - and I strongly believe the additional proposals outlined in earlier responses to Qu 15-18 could be funded within the existing budget.

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

**Any further comments on affordability for the community?**

ECAN should more effectively justify to the public the need for increased rates and the huge costs to society if our responses to environmental challenges are not adequate.

**Do you support the changes we're proposing to how we apply Uniform Annual General Charges?** No

**Any further comments on Uniform Annual General Charges?**

Those best able to pay should pay more.

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

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

Should we pass debt on to future generations?

**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?**

No comments

**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**

**Any further comments?**

Despite, the comments above, I applaud the general thrust of the Ecan LTP to try to move the region towards a more sustainable future. In my view, we just need to move much faster and more decisively. In my view we need a strong, honest, forthright public education campaign on climate change and biodiversity loss and their potential impacts.  
Thanks to all Ecan staff for all their hard work on developing this draft plan.

**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?** . Word of mouth

*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