

Comments

LTP 2021-31

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First name	Genevieve
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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?	40-64 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?	

ECan needs to prioritise an urgent plan change to the CLWRP which 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. The public need to be heard on any decisions affecting public health and the environment. If clean, abundant, healthy water is a priority then a precautionary approach must be taken. Science-informed decision-making has enormous limitations because there is huge difficulty in being able to scientifically prove cause and effect. The time lags between the causes and effects and the inconclusive nature of the science mean we are continually stalling making difficult decisions which could prevent the loss of our freshwater resource. We need to start with the precautionary approach and use science-based decision-making from there, rather than a

'we-won't-change-anything-until-it's-proved' approach if we want to avoid complete collapse of our freshwater systems.

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
	.	Climate Change and Community Resilience
	.	Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development
	.	Regional and Strategic Leadership

Water and Land portfolio comments:

We are not stewarding our freshwater resources adequately. While there is a possibility (strong, but not yet proven) that nitrates in water cause colorectal cancer in humans (as well as blue baby syndrome and other bowel complaints) we need to act to avoid that possibility rather than needing it to be definitively proven first (which is always difficult and a lengthy process.)

Stewarding is the careful and responsible management of something in one's care. Careful and responsible. Obviously in Canterbury this is a very divisive issue due to our economic base being largely dependent on a polluting industry. The costs of remediating the effects of pollution need to be repatriated to the industries creating them so that market economy mechanics can indicate the viability (or not) of the industry.

Currently we are not supporting intergenerational resilience as we are leaving a potential health catastrophe to the future.

Climate Change and Community Resilience portfolio comments:

I welcome the climate education funding in option 1, and would like more climate education and for it to emphasise need for collective action and systemic change, rather than individual consumer changes. I believe that Te Tiriti compliant participatory and deliberative democracy on a local level will be crucial in our climate response, and that Ecan should be trialling these sorts of initiatives.

I also believe that we need to be considering creating different kinds of local currency so that we can start to create drivers that work differently from the current money system which is what is forcing us to make bad decisions for the future. The money system we currently use has many characteristics that lead to bad outcomes, these could be mitigated by starting to experiment with currencies with different design features that create different outcomes. (Obviously this can sound flippant in a couple of sentences, but I have quite a deep understanding of collaborative economic systems and believe this is one of the systemic changes we seriously need to consider. See Bernard Lietaer's 'Rethinking Money: How New Currencies Turn Scarcity into Prosperity' for a deeper understanding.)

Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development portfolio comments:

I would like more funding to develop mass rapid transport. I support cheap or free public transport, and raising the age at which young people pay adult rates. I would like cycling and public transport to be prioritised more over car use.

I would love to see Christchurch and Canterbury as a leading cycling and public transport Mecca. The flatness of this place makes it ideal for cycling. Cycling is also great for health, both mental and physical. I applaud the cycle lanes that have gone into Chch since the earthquakes but think these could go a lot further in both design and distance.

Regional and Strategic Leadership portfolio comments:

I believe we need to be looking into regenerative development, design and thinking to start shaping our direction in ways that are not 'using the same thinking to fix the problem as created the problem in the first place.' Regenerative Design is taught by the Regenes Institute. See <https://thesolutionsjournal.com/2018/10/26/regenerative-mindset-five-essential-capabilities-practitioners/> for further explanation.

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

Any further comments on affordability for your household?

No

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

Any further comments on affordability for the community?

See 22

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

Any further comments on Uniform Annual General Charges?

I would like this to be reduced to zero. I strongly support progressive ways of funding Ecan, charging the rich more and poor people less. (UAGC is a part of the rates that all households pay equally. By reducing this component of the rates to Zero, and relying on other rates components to fund Ecan, we make sure that the rich pay more, and poor people may even pay less rates than they do currently. This is just and sensible.)

Would you support the use of borrowing for operating expenditure to offset some of the first year rates? No

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: 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 . On-demand public transport services
Other initiative/s

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

I think that MAR is one of the best examples of using the same thinking to fix a problem as created the problem in the first place.

MAR is one of three main nitrogen pollution mitigation strategies in the ZIPA and the decision to use it was made without any science, just on a wing and a prayer: "It is currently unknown how effective MAR will be at diluting average nitrate concentrations, raising water levels in the shallow groundwater, improving flows in spring-fed water bodies and enhancing biodiversity and cultural values." (P14 Ashburton ZIP Addendum).

There are huge questions as to what exactly is happening to the nitrogen-rich water in the acquifers that the recharge water is pushing, which means there could be a 'load to come' of nitrogen-rich water turning up somewhere unexpected. But on top of that, the water required to dilute the nitrogen is far greater than what is available from the recharge (although it seems the nitrogen load is being 'pushed' rather than diluted.)

I think MAR is a very expensive and culturally insensitive strategy designed primarily to stall the very real need to change our farming practices.

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?

- . Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)
- . 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