

Comments

LTP 2021-31

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Comment ID | 1143 |
| Response Date | 13/04/21 4:58 AM |
| Status | Submitted |
| Submission Type | Email |
| Version | 0.3 |
| Files | |
| First name | Ruby |
| Surname | Gill-Clifford |
| Email address | |
| Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation? | No, I'm submitting as an individual |
| Which age category are you in? | - |
| Do you have any further comments on the activities proposed in specific portfolio/s (please select all those you wish to comment on): | |
| 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 | |

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

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

From:
To:
Subject: LTP submission
Date: Sunday, 11 April 2021 11:17:55 pm

Ruby Gill-Clifford (17 years old)

I do not wish to appear before the council to speak to this submission.

I am a member of the Environment Canterbury Youth Rōpū, however this is a personal submission and is not on behalf of the Rōpū.

My preferred option

I believe that the first option proposed in the consultation document is what is needed if Canterbury is going to create transformational action in the face of climate change. There will never be a 'good' time for a rate increase like the one proposed for Option 1, but by postponing the action it only means that the consequences of climate breakdown will become more severe in the future. This may even lead to bigger costs for community members down the line due to things such as fines from nitrate levels or food insecurity- all a result of not making the right decisions surrounding climate change *now*. I believe that if Environment Canterbury was to spend the money on the projects proposed in Option 1, they would be leaders in the climate response for regions across New Zealand. Environment Canterbury has declared a climate emergency and said they engage with youth- it is time to live up to the promises they have made. It is crucial the change that this plan proposes occurs, now is not the time to hesitate. We need swift and powerful action.

Consultation Document

I believe that there needs to be change in the way that Environment Canterbury writes engagement documents, especially ones that are about plans as major as the Long Term Plan. When the Youth Rōpū were creating our engagement strategy and the survey we were going to use for the young people we talked with, a few of us (myself included) read the whole consultation document so that we could effectively and accurately give the required information. I found this document to be incredibly difficult to process, and once I did process it, found that the information in it was actually very vague regarding specifics on the projects within it. If Environment Canterbury wishes to effectively engage with youth and make sure that any and all types of people are engaging with their decision makers, these documents need to be at a level that a person as young as 12 could read (especially if they want that age group to be engaging with ecan). Although I realise that this might be difficult as there is technical information required to be included, there must be a way found around this as even adults with full-time jobs might not be likely to read a 40 page document that is hard to digest.

Projects I support

I support the following projects under the various portfolios in Option 1:
Increased support and funding for youth engagement

Being a member of the Youth Rōpū, this is something that I truly believe is a critical part in the climate response from decision makers. As youth we offer a completely different perspective than other ages, and I wholeheartedly believe in the power of diversity- it makes anything stronger and more resilient. We are also the ones that will inherit the decisions you are making today, and for a lot of us we are not able to condone leaders with a vote. Therefore an effort must be made to engage with youth and hear the opinions and ideas, as we are often incredibly engaged when it comes to our own futures on this planet! Engaging with all groups, especially youth, is the only way to ensure the decisions being made are with the future generations in mind.

A civics education project for schools

This is imperative to have in order to increase the engagement of young people with council, as you are educating them on the decision making process. This means you empower young people with the tools they need to create change in their communities, and bring their diverse and unique perspective to the table. I also strongly believe there should be more education around Ngāi Tahu and their relationship to this area, and so therefore their role in decision making. Young people should know the indegionous history of this area, and how this impacts mana whenua today, and how legislation supports them (or doesn't).

A contestable fund for community projects

I believe this would be an incredible and crucial part of allowing the community to take charge of their own resilience in the face of climate change. If the regional council could show support through funds, it would empower groups to create projects that promote community resilience, which I believe is immensely powerful (even more so than decision makers telling them how to be resilient).

Creating jobs in pest management

Environment-based jobs post COVID I think is the best way to move forward in our economy, whilst moving away from the status quo. Creating jobs for people who are struggling after COVID will have an incredible impact on our economy, however the money will be generated in a way that contributes something meaningful and lasting towards our environment.

Increased support for land owner to help them comply with new regulations

In the face of many major changes coming from central government, there must be support for landowners to completely transform the way they work, in order to create a more sustainable and regenerative way of operating. Change will not happen efficiently and effectively if decision makers bring out new regulations and then land owners are left to figure out how to comply. I believe there must be a major shift in the way we use our land, however landowners may not find this motivation by themselves, and so will be tempted to do the bare minimum. This is not enough and so support and education must be there so Canterbury can farm and utilise its whenua in a way that heals the land, rather than degrading it.

I would like to note that although I have not listed every single project proposed under Option 1, I am in support of all initiatives that will boost either biodiversity and environmental health, and/or increase the wellbeing and resilience of our communities.

Overall

Bureaucracy must not stand in the way of imperative action. We must work together with all types of people to create solutions to the problems that we face today and will continue to face for years to come. We must have change that creates incredibly resilient communities, food systems, waterways, native forest and environments in the face of climate change. This plan for the next 10 years needs to reflect these goals.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.