

Comments

LTP 2021-31

Comment ID	1148
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First name	Russell
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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 2:31:33 pm
Attachments: [Submission ECAN Long Term Plan 2021.docx](#)

Please find attached my submission to the ECAN 10 year plan.

I am unable to present this in person.

Regards

Russell Wallace

Submission ECAN Long Term Plan 2021-31

Russell Wallace,
Email -

I have lived in the Waimate district since 1982 and during that time have worked as a farmer on our own property, lived in town and now have a lifestyle block in Waituna.

During that time I have seen the Waimate District become a place of prosperity as the land has transformed from parched dry land to highly productive farmland. This has been brought about mainly by the wonderful irrigation water from the Waitaki River.

During that time we have also seen the level of stewardship of that land change with the development of modern farming systems and technology. The people using that technology have a vested interest to ensure that sustainability is their focus. Managing that resource has been done extremely well by local individuals and farming groups who continue to focus on sustainability.

If ECAN is wanting people to become involved in this Long Term Plan process, then the discussion document needs to be simplified and remove the "corporate speak" language which makes it a difficult document to read and understand. Not everyone who reads this has a university degree or the time to decipher the language and understand the data and graphs used in the presentation.

One of the greater challenges facing Canterbury at the moment is the ability of people to pay for everything they need. Increasing taxes, increasing food prices, general cost of living increases and then massive proposed Regional and Local Government rate increases. This is not sustainable.

In a business when things become tight owners look at their operating expenses, what can they drop that is not necessary how can they save their business some money while still operating. ECAN do not seem to accept that this applies to them and rate increases continue to be the norm. This is not sustainable!

The proposed rate increases need to be revisited, ECAN costs reduced, and pushback be given to Central Government on issues they are trying to devolve to Regional Councils.

I fail to understand why ECAN is involved in Urban Transport. This used to be managed by the City authorities and those people are the best judge of what their communities require. I suggest ECAN get out of the transport business and let communities run their own.

Water management has become an extremely emotional issue supported by the media, the expert urban dwellers, agenda driven politicians and anyone who can make mileage out of knocking the farming industry.

Our own community has made huge advancements in water management over the past decade and continues to lead. The Morven Glenavy Ikawai Irrigation

Company, MGI, has done much and continues to do much in the area of water management.

The Wainono Catchment group are doing great things with enhancing the Waihao river and here ECAN gets a pat on the back for supporting this work. I know of farmers in this catchment who have given water back to the Waihao River something I have not heard anyone acknowledge publicly.

My concern is with a majority, urban based council and councilors with agendas then the good work being done in rural communities will never be acknowledged because it does not fit the future that these urban based, councilors, have planned.

Furthermore the water being bottled and exported from underground Canterbury aquifers needs to be either stopped or charged for at a commercial rate. These foreign based companies are making vast amounts of money at the expense of Canterbury while we sit by and let them “rape” our water resources. I am sure if that was a Canterbury farmer doing it he would be closed down immediately.

In the area of pest control there is expenditure of \$26M proposed. How much of this is to be used for the out of control Wallaby population, which is moving outside of the “control zone”. The current model places pest control with the landowner however I would like to know how much of the \$26m is actually spent on getting rid of the population or does it just cover people travelling around in Toyota Landcruisers counting Wallabies.

The powerhouse in Canterbury lies with the rural communities and for the urban areas to prosper, the rural areas need to produce. Partnerships with rural groups will bring about a more acceptable way forward instead of getting out and “waving the big stick” over emotional and often misinformation around issues such as water and air quality.

I am concerned that ECAN is becoming a more bureaucratic organization, less connected to the communities, fast becoming an extension of Central Government and approaching the point where it no longer has the trust of the rural people it represents.

The organization has an urban-based majority represented by people who do not seem to like nor understand farming and like it or not Agriculture will continue to be the powerhouse that makes Canterbury great.

Russell Wallace
April 11 2021