

Comments

LTP 2021-31

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First name	Mary
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Surname	Ralston
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Email address

Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?	No, I'm submitting as an individual
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Are you willing to tell us more about yourself?	No
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Which age category are you in?	-
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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:	-
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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

How did you find out about giving feedback?

From:
To:
Subject: submission LTP
Date: Sunday, 11 April 2021 9:44:29 am
Attachments: [Submission ECan LTP.docx](#)

I attach my submission to the long-term plan.

Mary Ralston

Submitter: MARY RALSTON

Address:

Date: 11 April 2021

By Email:

I would like to submit on the long term plan:

1. Climate Change

- a. A climate emergency has been declared and requires prompt action, which must be appropriately funded. There needs to be adequate expenditure for removal of historic landfills and toxic contaminants adjacent to surface water bodies or above shallow aquifers and sediment control from future flooding events.
- b. Wetlands need greater protection. Many existing wetlands need restoration and new ones built to improve biodiversity, store carbon, to act as a buffer for storm events and as an alternative to engineered floodworks. Coastal wetlands are especially vulnerable to coastal erosion associated with climate change but are very important for the buffering of extreme events and as important but shrinking habitats for native biodiversity.

Water

- a. Align regional and sub-regional plans with the Government's proposed Essential Freshwater Reforms 2024.
- b. Stronger regulation to improve water quality and meet climate change targets by reducing dairy cow numbers, preventing new dairy conversions, phasing out synthetic fertilizer and preventing any new water extraction from over-allocated catchments, such as the Ashburton/Hakatere, which is still over-allocated despite recent changes to consents.
- c. Improve water quality to a drinking water standard. High nitrate levels are putting public health at risk. There is an urgent need to reduce the nitrogen limit in freshwater to a maximum of 1mg/L. The long term public health cost of not doing so will far exceed the cost of reducing nitrate pollution.

- d. Protection of source water in pristine alpine rivers, lakes, and wetlands from land use intensification.
- e. There needs to be better regulation of farming activities in sensitive lake zones to address the deteriorating water quality in high country lakes and rivers.

Land

- a. Stronger regulation to protect and enhance existing indigenous biodiversity.
- b. Funding to support purchase of remnants, the planting of natives in permanent plantations (instead of pine forests) for carbon sequestration and enhancing biodiversity.
- c. Continued removal of wilding trees and weeds.
- d. Increased control of pests including wallaby and rabbits.

Compliance

- a. Increased focus on monitoring, enforcement and prosecution for non-compliance, especially in areas such as sensitive lake zones.
- b. The departments associated with monitoring, compliance and prosecution should have increased resources.
- c. Monitoring, enforcement and prosecution costs should be at least partially funded from prosecution fines.

Public Participation and Transparency

- a. ECan must improve transparency. There have been many poor decisions, lack of consistency and deliberate actions taken contrary to the regulatory framework within which ECan operates. This is still evident in the current draft regional plan, in the portrayal of MAR as a "solution" to Canterbury's water issues. This is a gross distortion of reality.
- b. Full public participation in the development of short term and long term plans.
- c. Discontinue issuing non-notified resource consents to applications that affect have any effect on environment and public health.
- d. The public should be able to participate in RC applications that do not meet freshwater targets (eg MVH Ltd, Barrhill Chertsey and Ashburton Lyndhurst irrigation schemes).

I oppose expenditure for:

- Investment in Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) projects to manage freshwater quality are **STRONGLY OPPOSED**.
MAR schemes do not address the underlying cause of contamination. It does not reduce the contaminants entering the aquifers, and does not increase the quantity of water, or improve eco-system health and only provides marginal benefit to those communities in which it operates.
- Further funding for Zone committees. The wider community has lost trust in the zone committees as a result of poor decision making and bias associated with vested interests within the committees. It is time they were disbanded.