

Comments

LTP 2021-31

Comment ID	1226
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Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Email
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First name	Dave
Surname	Evans
Email address	
Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?	Yes, I'm submitting on behalf of an organisation
Which organisation are you submitting on behalf of?	Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch Inc
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? Yes

How did you find out about giving feedback?

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject: LTP submission for Sustainable Ōtautahi Christchurch
Date: Sunday, 11 April 2021 7:43:00 pm
Attachments: [SOC 2021 ECan LTP Submission.pdf](#)

Unfortunately at present we are unable to send emails from
but we do receive emails sent to that address and it
should be used for emails relating to this submission.

Regards
Dave Evans
Treasurer, Sustainable Ōtautahi Christchurch



Submission on Environment Canterbury Long Term Plan 2021–2031

from:

Sustainable Ōtautahi Christchurch Inc.

Submission prepared by:
SŌC Executive
Email contact:

We do wish to speak to our submission.

SOC formed in 2005 from the merger of Sustainable Cities Trust and Christchurch-Ōtautahi Agenda 21 Forum. Former members of both those groups are involved, along with a new generation of Ōtautahi-Christchurch people, who work towards the bold vision of Ōtautahi-Christchurch people “practising, living and demonstrating sustainability in all that they do.”

SOC strongly supports Option 1.

Protecting and improving our freshwater is critical for our region given the massive impact human activity has had on our rivers and other water bodies. We urge ECan to substantially increase the support to farmers to encourage them to use regenerative farming practices. We cannot afford as a region to continue to protect and support the intensive farming practices that have caused the degeneration of our waterways and endanger our freshwater drinking supplies.

Reducing emissions via a public transport network that is well utilised. Getting people out of their cars is a major imperative. Children's fares on public transport should be extended to at least 18 year olds.

COVID-19 recovery work should include pest control. We strongly support work on weeds in our region; e.g. Russel lupins impacting Canterbury's braided rivers.

We urge ECan to increase work in the area of compliance, monitoring and enforcement of the rules ECan and the community have worked hard to develop. It is frustrating to people in the community when they see rules they believe have been developed to protect the environment being broken or ignored without adequate redress from the agency they have trusted to enforce them on their behalf.

We support active regeneration of the natural environment and the tree planting programme Me Uru Rakau. We note that there has been some excellent restoration work on ECan land in recent years. We urge you to continue and increase the work done in this area. SOC also supports the contestable fund for supporting local environmental projects and the braided river revival programme. Braided rivers are rare globally and Canterbury's unique instances of this iconic ecosystem deserve strong protection and restoration.

We strongly support ECan in the work you do with youth engagement. With so many schools on the wait- list for Enviroschools we urge that funding for these be increased. We also support ECan to work with others in the community on youth engagement opportunities. SOC and NZ Association for Environmental Education lead a project called 'Speaking for the Planet'. The support we have had from ECan has been vital in making this the success it is. As well as encouraging young people to express their passion for the natural world and to develop their skills in doing so, the competition brings together a range of community organisations, businesses, educational institutions, community organisations and individuals. We also note the excellent work your own dedicated education team do with and for the youth of our region. Bringing young environmental leaders through is such a vital role for all of us; it is very encouraging to see the importance that Environment Canterbury place on this work and we encourage you to continue and to expand this.

It is important that ECan work in alignment with other agencies including the other councils in the region. This is especially important when there is a cross-over of responsibility, as is the case with

public transport. SOC supports investigation of public mass transit by rail from both Rolleston and Rangiora into Christchurch city.

SOC opposes extending the Managed Aquifer Recharge programme to other parts of Canterbury. SOC would prefer to see the issues of declining aquifer levels and increasing nitrate levels addressed directly at the source of these issues (reduced water abstraction and reduced ingress of pollutants) rather than through an expensive technical “fix”. Such action is not consistent with Te Mana o Te Wai.

We support the proposed borrowing programme to support operating expenditure. The current fiscal climate with low interest rates combined with the importance and urgency of the work needed makes this option very sensible. Indeed, given the climate emergency we face (which ECan acknowledges), are we actually doing enough with Option 1, and could increased borrowing be utilised to achieve more? SOC understands that household budgets are limited, and thus that rate increases must be small. However, we wonder if increased borrowing could occur if the current interest rates were locked in for the repayment period.

We are experiencing a climate and biodiversity emergency and need to take appropriate action. SOC supports all the transformational opportunities identified on page 7 of the consultation document. The accelerating costs of not taking action in the current emergency should not be forgotten when considering the cost of the proposed LTP. SOC supports ECan’s climate change and community resilience programme.

Pollution of aquifers can take many years to show up and much longer still to clean up. Due to the elevated incidence of colo-rectal cancer in Canterbury and recognition that this may be due to nitrate exposure, SOC would like to see the maximum nitrate level in drinking water reduced to 1 mg/L. This may not be within ECan’s powers, but the world is moving in this direction and ECan should recognise this trend and acknowledge it.