

From: Environment Canterbury
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 10:43 am
To: Have your Say
Subject: Submission on draft Annual Plan 2022/23

Anonymous User just submitted 'Draft Annual Plan 2022/23 submission' with the responses below.

First name

Geoffrey

Last name

Swales

Email address

Phone number

Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?

No, I'm submitting as an individual

Which age category are you in?

65+ years old

Do you wish to speak to your submission at a Council hearing?

Yes

Would you support a levy to accelerate action in response to climate change?

No

Any other comments on future funding for responding to climate change?

Any action by anyone in New Zealand will affect only 0.2% of the planets CO2 emissions . It may be argued that "our" actions though small in effect have a "good" influence on other nations. Rubbish! Other nations do not care one jot for what we are doing. Our global problem right now is WAR , not gaseous emissions.

Any other comments on Environment Canterbury's draft Annual Plan or other matters?

Yes, I wish to comment on the Rakahuri River and ongoing gravel extraction from it. I ask you to now place more emphasis on your Canterbury Water Management Strategy than you have hitherto. Your CWMS has over the years contained much worthy and high sounding ambitions to improve the environment of our braided rivers. The reality of your actions on the ground, at least in the case of the Rakahuri , have been the complete opposite. Apart from some cash assistance to community groups , and the promise of "River Reports" (which never eventuate) nothing is done. Now to gravel extraction. I understand that there are several consent applications to take gravel from the Rakahuri totalling some 600.000-800,000 cubic metres. 800,000 cum means a channel 100m wide 1m deep along 8km of river fairway . Just think on this for a moment , Anyone with a modicum of environmental nous would rate this as a complete no-brainer non-starter . I ask that these applications be declined. My association with the Rakahuri started in 2003 when I joined ARRG and undertook trapping work . I am no longer a member of ARRG. I have seen the river quality deteriorate over this time and the reason is simple ; over extraction of the gravel braids. Now there is no shortage of gravel in Canterbury. What there is, is a shortage of CHEAP gravel . Now the roading companies being commercial entities must maximise profits to pay dividends. That is fine. But we have now reached the stage where the river has no more gravel to give without further serious compromise of the environmental quality. We now have to confront the reality . Do we raise the price of urban development by refusing further access to cheap gravel, or , do we allow the consents to go through. These two options have different associated costs. The difference between them is the Environmental Cost of your decision. Time I say to give the environment a breather. Some other points: - A few years ago Ecan installed a higher stop bankbetween Rangiora and Rakahuri. To further mitigate against urban flooding. I submit that there is now a reduced need to consider flooding as the primary concern re Rakahuri river management. - My own personal experience of Ecan Consent monitoring people spans 2007>2016 approx. Relating to periods of extraction on the Makerikeri river. I did support Ecan as a prosecution witness against (then) SOL Shingle. Sadly the people involved then did no professional monitoring of the extractions , and seemed to me when I asked for action, to have no concern over the extraction operations. That however is history. This is now. What I ask is that all current and future extraction allowances applications be strictly monitored to ensure compliance with codition and to ensure that only the stated quantity is removed. Given the past history

of these operators it can be expected that any chance of over-extraction will be siezed. Leopards do not change their spots.

Where did you hear about the consultation?

Word of mouth
