

From: Environment Canterbury
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 12:16 pm
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

Ross

Last name

Vesey

Email address

Suburb

Clarkville, Kaiapoi

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

Is borrowing and repaying through general rates the right approach for this regionally significant event?

No

How else might we pay for our share of this work?

Additional general rates should not be used in addition to the proportion of it already rated for as per each scheme's funding regime. If our share means the amount not covered by government, then firstly ensure that all infrastructure owners whose assets benefit from the flood or drainage protection works contribute in proportion to the benefit they gain. Their initial contribution should be substantial to cover the historical benefit they have enjoyed. For the balance, borrow for all classes of rates and repay the loan using the existing funding regime.

How do you think recovery from flooding of this scale – events that impact state highways, bridges, rail and power for example – should be funded in the future?

The benefit given by the infrastructure managed by ECan to other infrastructure owners should be assessed so that their share of benefit can be included in either the targetted rating classification for each scheme, or as an adjustment to the funding regime for each protection scheme. Eg: For W-E-C-C scheme Infrastructure owners X% of total annual cost, and apply the existing 70:15:15 split to the balance. Some understanding of history may be helpful. When government was funding river and drainage schemes there was never considered any need to include infrastructure owners as a co-funder because they were government owned. When government funding was withdrawn the farmer dominated ECan council adopted what was considered and is still considered to be a generous funding regime for these schemes. This was the best that could be done without having access (like some other regional councils) to 'discretionary income' from an asset like a port which could assist with subsidising the protection schemes. During the reorganisation of local government, the local government commission did not allow ECan to own either the Timaru or Lyttleton ports. This means that the benefit of those ports is not able to be spread across the region. Some infrastructure owners do contribute to the costs of some schemes elsewhere in the country but I don't know on what basis or if there is any consistency. In the late 1990s to early 2000s NZ's river managers' group worked on this at a national level but to the best of my knowledge nothing came of it. Events like the one that has caused the current funding proposal will become more frequent in this region so continuing to address them in this way could lead so funding stack ups that are not sustainable. Continued occupation of certainly much of

the land bordering the protection schemes has to be questioned. With the benefit of hindsight the decision making around the location of stopbanks in a number of cases was questionable. Retreat to provide more room for floodwater to reduce the risk of flooding must be as important a consideration for flood protection schemes as is retreat for coastal properties. Investigating this must become a priority.

Which option for distribution of rates in Ashburton River rating district do you support?

Option 1 (preferred): Redistribute rates in the Ashburton River rating district.

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

Yes

What current or future projects or activities would you like to see funded by such a levy?

Would like to see project to investigate retirement of protected land and relocation of stopbanks to provide more resilience from climate change induced flooding.

Where did you hear about the consultation?

Social media (Facebook, Instagram)
