

**From:** Environment Canterbury  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 30 March 2022 12:27 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**

Mary Anne

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**Last name**

Ward

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**Email address**

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**Suburb**

Fairlie, Fairlie

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**Phone number**

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**Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?**

No, I'm submitting as an individual

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**Which age category are you in?**

65+ years old

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

Yes

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**Which bus fare structure option would you like to see trialled?**

I don't have a preference

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**Tell us more about why you support the selected bus fare option.**

We live in Fairlie where there is no public transport

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

Don't know

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

I don't have a preference

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

Don't know

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**Upload any supporting documents (if applicable)**

[https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-australia/3b9a4b10bf00343069ff684e046d1b44fad2f13d/original/1648596366/fd63dda315c24dfb6b912cc18da01463 ECAN Submission MA Ward 3 April 2022.pdf?1648596366](https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-australia/3b9a4b10bf00343069ff684e046d1b44fad2f13d/original/1648596366/fd63dda315c24dfb6b912cc18da01463%20ECAN%20Submission%20MA%20Ward%203%20April%202022.pdf?1648596366)

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**Where did you hear about the consultation?**

Email

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## ECAN Submission

Our submission concerns the location where used chemical containers are stored (and the monitoring of the volatile organic compounds involved) while they await disposal.

### Background:

We have lived at \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 years.

PGGWrightson manages an AgRecovery container on their site next door \_\_\_\_\_. Used chemical containers are stored in this 20' container, awaiting disposal.

Our home (and the one behind us) is on Residential land but PGGWrightson is on Commercial land. We think the AgRecovery container has been in Fairlie for approximately one year, but it wasn't until the end of 2021 that we became aware of it. This was when the stench became revolting, getting on our skin, in our mouths/lungs, inside our homes. In the summer heat, with a full container, with gases being vented out the top, the back and its two side windows, this situation was unbearable.

The chemical containers stored in the AgRecovery container are empty and it is recommended that they are triple washed offsite, but they are also "contaminated" (by the chemical contents) and when the number of chemical containers builds up, and combines with the warmer temperatures, this is when the risk of odour is very high.

Evidence of the smell cannot be produced but there are several people who also smelt it and commented how disgusting it was and asked us how we put up with it. It is not like recording a photo or sound, but this smell is not forgotten once you have it in your system.

After discussions with PGGWrightson and then ECAN, the AgRecovery container was emptied (12 Jan) and then moved about 20m further away from the residential boundary to another part of the PGGWrightson site, where it has been since then. (It is now about 30m from our home.) We saw this move as a temporary measure while discussions with other parties (eg Mackenzie District Council) worked out a more permanent solution, but this has not happened.

Since the AgRecovery container was moved 20 m, we have smelt the familiar smell, but it has been nothing like the original toxic smell. This is not surprising as there probably is not very much in the container at this stage and also the weather is not as hot. It is only a matter of time **before the smell builds up again**. We feel entitled to have clean air where we live and to not have to risk possible mismanagement at the neighbouring property.

It is well-known that for vulnerable people, eg those with cancer, the effect of volatile organic compounds is significantly higher than for healthy people. Since the end of November, I have been diagnosed with Stage 4 Lung Cancer, metastasised in bones and in the recent weeks prior to Jan 6, according to the radiation oncologist, in my brain. The need to move this AgRecovery container (and the one in Geraldine) is huge.

Most of the AgRecovery containers around the country are managed in Recovery Parks. This would be a better place for security and lower the risk to people like us, in our home.

Another situation which needs to be brought to your attention: the AgRecovery container in Geraldine is also on a PGGWrightson site, right in the centre of town. This is up against the boundary with a very active community church where there are many gatherings and crèche activities over the week. On the other side of the church, also on \_\_\_\_\_ there is a house. Directly behind the

church, diagonally behind PGGWrightson, is the Geraldine Kindergarten. This is another site where the AgRecovery container should not be.

Proposal:

1 Rules need to be made about including a buffer zone between these containers and residential properties (or places where people gather).

2 Standards for the management of these volatile compounds need to be clarified. There seems to be nothing at this point in time.

3 Staffing needs to be provided for the regular monitoring of these volatile organic compounds, and detection equipment available to check the levels.

Mary Anne Ward