

**From:** Environment Canterbury  
**Sent:** Sunday, 3 April 2022 5:14 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**

Sonny

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**Last name**

Whitelaw

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**Email address**

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**Suburb**

Oxford, Oxford

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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?**

No

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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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**Any other comments on bus fares?**

As we have no bus service from Oxford, the point is moot.

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

No

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

General rates

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**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?**

No Answer

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**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.

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**Any other comments on flood protection in Ashburton?**

This is not just an issue for Ashburton. “There is increased evidence of maladaptation across many sectors and regions since the AR5. Maladaptive responses to climate change can create lock-ins of vulnerability, exposure and risks that are difficult and expensive to change and exacerbate existing inequalities.” - IPCC Sixth Assessment Report; WGII, Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, 2022 Globally, as well as here in Aotearoa New Zealand, there is a growing recognition that rivers of all types must be ‘given room to move’ to avoid catastrophic avulsions in the most vulnerable locations. The flood risks to Canterbury were spelled out in the December 2019 NIWA report on fluvial and pluvial risks. The National Risk Assessment (MfE, August 2020) and Climate change projections Canterbury (NIWA, Feb. 2020) also pointed out vulnerabilities. Enhancing traditional flood protection such as planting exotic trees and raising levees is a costly form of maladaptation. Allowing braided rivers to reclaim at least some of their original braidplains and reinstating wetlands to help act as shock-absorbers to mitigate the rapidly increasing risk of mega-floods, will also help reinstate other ecosystem services while reducing downstream flood risks. Flood recovery is the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff, and the region will quickly run out of money trying to mop up messes that we have been warned are coming. With other climate change impacts across the motu, the costs to bail out every extreme weather event will become impossible for the Government; it’s impossible for them to keep propping up poor risk management decisions. We know this is an incredibly difficult conversation to be had with communities. But until that happens, most people will continue to demand that ECan engineers confine rivers using processes that no longer suit a rapidly changing climate, demand that someone pays to mop up a mess of our collective making.

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

Yes

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

We need a Covid-level conversation across the region, so that people are able to make genuinely informed decisions.

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

In an ideal world, every Cantabrian would understand the cascading risks posed by climate change. Planners and policymakers would have the tools and expertise to apply clear and legally robust national policies to local conditions. Decisions would continuously adjust as weather patterns and sea levels change. Homebuyers would consider climate risks when deciding where to live and how much to pay. Developers, investors, and businesses—including the farming sector—would place climate risk at the forefront of their business decisions. And healthy ecosystems would be recognised as indispensable to the efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. In short, everyone would understand and work collaboratively to become climate resilient. But we live in the real world. In this world, information is largely inaccessible or confusing to the lay person. That’s leading to fear, disempowerment, and a

reluctance or inability to make informed decisions, including agreeing to paying a levee. Why should they, when they don't truly understand the ramifications of ignoring the coming storm? Or our moral obligations to the rest of the world? To quote Rod Carr, "If we took all our agricultural emissions out of our emissions profile, and left all China's manufacturing in their profile, our emissions would still be twice theirs per capita." According to the UN, Aotearoa is using more than six times our fair share of the carbon budget to keep global temperatures below 1.5°C; we rank 42nd out of 45 of the world's industrialised countries ([https://di.unfccc.int/global\\_map](https://di.unfccc.int/global_map)). So yes, I want to pay a levee. And in the first instance, I think funding needs to go into an active, not passive, communications and community engagement strategy. Not just a website. Not just town-hall meetings inviting people to attend virtually or in person. Actively go out into communities. Create a dedicated team. Ask to be invited to speak at people's clubs, park outside libraries. Create a constantly travelling roadshow to answer questions, listen to what people are thinking, answer more questions, again and again. And above all, be honest. Don't make politically safe promises to keep everyone happy. Be ready for the fact that some conversations are going to be difficult, downright soul-destroying. Keep the 2-way conversation as active and at the forefront of people's minds as much as Covid has, so that even if they don't believe it and get angry, they will be psychologically better prepared when they're impacted, whether from floods or their insurance premiums skyrocketing, or insurance declined. The multiplier effects of climate change across every sector is going to be far more costly and life-threatening than Covid. So we need an informed democracy, people better prepared and informed, capable of making the best (or least worst) decisions. Without this, ECan will be unable to bring the support of people with you, as you try to prepare for an emergency that, unlike the earthquakes and Covid, we know for certain is coming.

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

Email

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