

**From:** Marie Gray  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 April 2022 3:44 pm  
**To:** Have your Say  
**Subject:** Re: Query re submission confirmation  
**Attachments:** Personal submission from Marie Gray.docx

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Kia ora Teresa, I have rewritten my submission, please see attached.  
I'm not quite sure what went wrong as I was sure I submitted it and the submission disappeared but obviously something went wrong with the process.  
Anyway here it is and look forward to the hearings later this month.

Kind regards,  
Marie

On Monday, 4 April 2022, 09:52:06 am NZST, Have your Say <haveyoursay@ecan.govt.nz> wrote:

Mōrena Marie,

Thanks for your email. I can see your submission on behalf of Summit Road Society, but for some reason I can not see your personal submission.

Are you in a position to re-send it? Please feel free to send it through as an email or in a word document to this email address.

Ngā mihi,

Teresa

From:  
Have your Say

Sent: Sunday, 3 April 2022 2:14 pmTo:  
Subject: Query re submission confirmation

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Hello I submitted a personal submission this afternoon but didn't receive a confirmation. Can I please check it did submit and I used the correct email

Note this is my personal submission not the one for the Summit Road Society. I did receive the confirmation for the Society that's why I'm concerned my personal one hasn't come through.

Kind regards

Marie Gray

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Sent from myMail for Android

Personal submission from Marie Gray

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I'd like to speak to my submission.

### **Bus fares**

- I support Option 1 – trial of fare-free travel for under 25s, students, Total Mobility and Community Services card holders across all zones. I also support the extension of this trial to include the Diamond Harbour ferry.
- Public transport is one of the biggest levers ECAN can influence to reduce emissions especially in Christchurch City.
- My own children regularly catch the bus for this reason. If they bus 80% of the school year that saves 3000km of driving each year. Imagine the emission reductions if the majority of kids walked, biked or bused to school. It is a low hanging fruit that will make an immediate difference to emissions, congestion and pollution.
- However while the trial is a fantastic initiative, it is only a start. There is much more to do to improve public transport.
- I also regularly catch the bus and I do it for environmental reasons. The truth is catching the bus is more inconvenient, time-consuming and expensive than using my private car, especially when travelling around the suburbs.
- Central and local government need to do more to incentivise behaviour change including lowering barriers to public transport and improving accessibility and convenience. Bus services need to be regular, flexible, reliable and free for everyone. There also needs to be a bus stop within 10 mins of everyone's house and there needs to be a variety of routes to meet users' needs. Public transport should not be seen as simply a cost. It is an investment for the future and when people choose to take the bus, it benefits the whole community. It reduces emissions, it reduces pollution and congestion, it helps make our roads safer and it reduces wear and tear on our roads and associated maintenance.
- Bad experiences with public transport put people off. I am very pro public transport yet I have had many negative experiences. It is not always easy to choose the bus when I have a perfectly good car sitting at home. For example, having to go really early because the bus is so irregular, buses not coming, buses being late, long walks between stops to make the trip work. I persist out of sheer determination.
- ECAN also needs to work closely with CCC on aligning bus routes and cycleways and with local and central government on connecting our major cities by rail.

### **Flood recovery and protection**



- I really grappled with this issue, whether borrowing just puts the burden onto future generations, whether general rates is the right answer or whether this should be funded through a mixture of general or targeted rates. It is a difficult and complex issue.
- In the end I decided to support the preferred option to borrow for the \$12million in flood recovery and repay through general rates. I decided this approach is the simplest and most practical option for this point in time for this particular flood given the extraordinary and unexpected nature of this event. However, this approach is fundamentally reactive not proactive and it only really works if the events happen infrequently. I believe ECAN needs to do more thinking and consultation on the approach going forward for flood recovery (and recovery from extreme weather events more generally) and to present a range of scenarios for different types of events in different districts so ratepayers can better understand the impacts and the complexities. We need to start planning for these kinds of events to be more than 'one offs'.
- May 2021 was a significant event with devastating effects. The recovery is a big burden to place on a district that is not highly populated. However all the evidence is pointing to an increase in the frequency of these events. Borrowing and funding repayments through general rates only delays the costs and spreads it across a bigger number of people. It also means that much of the recovery work will be funded by Christchurch city ratepayers due to sheer numbers. As a Christchurch resident I can see pros and cons to this, I want to support our neighbours down south with such a major flooding event and I will personally benefit from this work as we regularly go camping in the Rangitata region. I can also see the amount of work desperately needed in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula and the opportunity costs of funding repayments through general rates. In December 2021, another extreme weather event hit Banks Peninsula causing significant damage to roads, streams, farms and native forests. There is a great deal of work to recovery work needed on the Peninsula too.
- These are difficult issues with no easy answers and ECAN needs to do everything it can to help people understand these complexities. I believe a separate and forward thinking consultation on the wider issue of recovery from extreme weather events and how this is funded is required.
- This is also why we urgently need to invest in climate change mitigation and resilience. The more we can invest in building resilience now the lower the burden of these extreme weather events in the future. Indeed it would be irresponsible to borrow for recovery and not build resilience, because then future ratepayers have to pay for recovery of the 2021 floods and for future events too.
- I support the investment in flood recovery work and restructuring the rating districts to ensure that everyone who receives the benefit of this work contributes appropriately. It is also important to acknowledge that keeping SH1 and associated infrastructure open is all benefit to all of Canterbury and to NZ.

#### Climate Response

- Climate change, biodiversity loss and freshwater quality are the biggest issues of our time and they need urgent and immediate action.

- I support the proposed targeted climate change levy as a method to ring-fence this money and make it clear to the public how funding is allocated.
- ECAN needs to take a leadership role in Canterbury in educating the community about the urgency of the climate crises and what measures households can take themselves to make a difference. When people are ready to change their behaviour the options need to be there for them – not the other way round. “It’s time Canterbury” is a small but promising start.
- Suggested initiatives to be funded from a climate change levy include:
  - Landscape scale restoration projects of forests, wetlands and other rare ecosystems across all areas of Canterbury, both urban and rural.
  - Further work on public transport including extending free fares, education of the public and other innovative trials to increase use of public transport
  - Pest and predator control in particular control of feral browsers who pose a significant threat to the carbon locked in native forests.
  - Education and engagement campaigns with the public
  - Building resilience to climate change for example coastal erosion planning, flood protection and managing drought.

### **Other comments**

I also support:

- Investment in waterways including urban waterways. It is every child’s right to swim in their local river. The health of Christchurch rivers is a disgrace.
- Investment in Pest Free Banks Peninsula as we need both habitat restoration and predator control to restore our native fauna. Due to topography, terrain, existing biodiversity values and community engagement, the Peninsula is a natural first choice for a programme like this and it will be a role model for the rest of Canterbury.
- Increase in the number of Enviroschools
- Partnership with mana whenua on Te Mana o Te Wai and other programmes of work
- Investment in weed control including prevention, acting early and education. Many people do not understand or appreciate the threat that weeds pose and it is vital that ECAN take a leadership role in this place.
- Funding avenues for community organisations undertaking important work on the ground.

I would also make a comment on rates. I fully appreciate and understand the challenges of increasing rates for those on fixed and low incomes. But when I look at the situation we now face, it is because previous governments and councils did not do enough. They kicked the can down the road. They prioritised keeping rates low over doing what is needed. We cannot afford to keep doing this. Solutions are now more expensive, difficult and less likely to succeed. We have to take a long term view and not focus on the current term only. I would rather pay more rates now than place this burden onto my kids.