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### Your contact details

Email Address	josh@hurunuilandcaregroup.co.nz
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Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation, association or community group?	Yes, I'm submitting on behalf of an organisation, association or community group
Name of organisation, association or community group	Canterbury Catchment Groups

### Supporting your submission

Anyone can make a submission. All submissions will be considered by Council in accordance with our submissions policy before they make a decision.

You can upload documents to support your submission. Please make sure each page includes your name. The maximum file size is 200MB	<a href="https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-australia/bab42a3885630bf833dc8e497b102d01f7792854/original/1713133296/55eb15ee3757f68fc22f05449056de05_Canterbury_Catchment_Groups_Submission_on_ECAN_LTP_2024-2034_-_FINAL.pdf?1713133296">https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-australia/bab42a3885630bf833dc8e497b102d01f7792854/original/1713133296/55eb15ee3757f68fc22f05449056de05_Canterbury_Catchment_Groups_Submission_on_ECAN_LTP_2024-2034_-_FINAL.pdf?1713133296</a>  See Upload File 1 section.
You can upload documents to support your submission. Please make sure each page includes your name. The maximum file size is 200MB	See Upload File 2 section.
If you would like to give feedback via a video, add a link to YouTube or Dropbox file below	See Upload File 3 section.
If you wish, you can also come to talk to Council about your submission at public sessions that are known as 'hearings'. Do you want to speak to Council about your submission at the Long-Term Plan hearings?	Yes
Please provide your phone number so we can contact you to schedule a hearing time	027 774 7778
Which age category are you in?	

### Environmental Regulation and Protection

We are Canterbury's environmental regulator. We are responsible for managing natural resources including air, soil, water and land. We work with mana whenua, stakeholders, and communities to promote the sustainable management of these natural resources, and protect and enhance the health of our natural environment.

Question	Answer
We are proposing three options for funding our Environmental Regulation and Protection services. Please indicate which option you prefer	
Tell us more about the option you chose. What would you support and what would you suggest we change or do differently for Environmental Regulation and Protection?	

### **Targeted rate for Christchurch district biodiversity**

We are proposing to fund more work to improve indigenous biodiversity outcomes in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula through a new targeted rate to properties in those areas.

This would be in addition to the work already funded through the existing regional rate. \$1million for this additional work is already included in Council's preferred option for Environmental Regulation and Protection services.

This equates to rates of 72 cents per year per \$100,000 of your property value.

If there is sufficient support for this new targeted rate, Council could decide to include this targeted rate regardless of whether Option 2 is ultimately accepted.

Question	Answer
Do you support this new biodiversity targeted rate?	
Tell us more about why you support / don't support this biodiversity rate?	

### **Community Preparedness and Response to Hazards**

We support the community to be prepared for, and be able to respond to hazards, and to be prepared for changes in the natural environment.

Question	Answer
We are proposing three options for funding our Community Preparedness and Response to Hazards services. Please indicate which option you prefer	
Tell us more about the option you chose. What would you support and what would you suggest we change or do differently for Community Preparedness and Response to Hazards?	

### **Targeted rate for Selwyn district for river resilience**

We are proposing a trial in the Selwyn district to carry out additional flood and river resilience activities.

Existing schemes do not change.

The cost for this additional work will be through a targeted rate to all properties in the Selwyn district. \$200,000 for this additional work is already included in Council's preferred option for Community Preparedness and Response to Hazards. This equates to rates of \$7.08 per rate-paying property in Selwyn district in 2024/25 (Year 1).

Question	Answer
Do you support a new river targeted rate in Selwyn?	
Tell us more about why you support / don't support this river rate	

## Public Transport

We provide urban bus services within the Canterbury region, and ferry services in Christchurch.

We do this because public transport increases accessibility, connects communities and contributes to significant environmental benefits such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, better air quality, and improved travel times across the transport network.

Question	Answer
We are proposing three options to fund Public Transport services. Please indicate which option you prefer	
Tell us more about the option you chose. What would you support and what would you suggest we change or do differently for Public Transport?	

## Fees and Charges schedule

In order to make our consent-related costs more transparent, we are proposing a move towards a fixed-fee approach for some of our consenting work.

There are a number of benefits to this for our community including certainty of invoice amount, more timely invoicing, removing the need for a deposit and standard site visit costs will be built in.

Question	Answer
Do you agree with this new fees and charges proposal?	
Tell us more about why you support / don't support this approach. What would you support and what would you suggest we change or do differently?	

## Uniform Annual General Charge / Uniform Annual Charge (UAGC/UAC)

UAGC/UAC are flat charges that are applied at the same amount for every property, no matter the value of your property. We currently charge ratepayers \$54.49 (in the 2023/24 year) for a range of services funded by UAGC or targeted UAC. This income represents approximately 8% of the total amount of money we collect from rates.

Council's preferred option is to set the UAGC and UAC charges to approximately 8% of total rates each year of the Long-Term Plan. This means as rates rise in the future, the value of the UAGC/UAC component of rates will also rise.

Question	Answer
Which Uniform Annual General Charge/Uniform Annual Charge	

(UAGC/UAC) rate increase would you support?	
Tell us more about the option you chose. What would you suggest we change or do differently?	

Strategies and policies

Question	Answer
We'd value your feedback on any of these strategies and policies	
Tell us what you think about the Financial Strategy	
Tell us what you think about the Revenue and Financing Policy	
Tell us what you think about the 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy 2024-54	
Tell us what you think about the Engagement, Significance and Māori Participation Policy	

Upload File 1.

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### **Upload File 3.**

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Dear Peter Scott

### **Submission on Environment Canterbury's Long-Term Plan**

We write on behalf of Canterbury's catchment groups, listed in Appendix One. These groups, primarily composed of local rural communities, represent a significant portion of Canterbury's land area. As Environment Canterbury (ECan) contemplates the future of local freshwater leadership, it is imperative to cultivate robust, lasting relationships with catchment communities and their stakeholders.

While we recognise ECan's role in planning, consenting, and compliance, this approach has its limitations, particularly given the complex and often conflicting outcomes sought between freshwater, biodiversity, biosecurity, and the dual challenges of mitigating and adapting to climate change. Limiting ECan's focus to regulatory matters risks failing to support our communities in understanding, engaging, and taking ownership of these issues. Regulation alone cannot ensure healthy waterways, thriving biodiversity, or climate-resilient communities. Catchment groups, however, excel in engagement, where the real progress is made.

We emphasise that ECan's values—people first, collaboration, stewardship, integrity, and a "can-do" attitude—mirror those of catchment groups. Moreover, ECan's strategic priorities of accelerating natural environment regeneration, empowering community action, and preparing resilient communities align with catchment groups' focus. Rooted in community engagement and leadership, these groups have shown remarkable success in mobilising for sustainable management and protection of natural resources through local ownership and a deep understanding of environmental challenges.

Over the last three years, catchment groups have concentrated on advocacy and extension to enhance their members' capabilities in environmental risk management. In the Hurunui, for instance, members have been trained in farm environmental planning, greenhouse gas emissions management, water monitoring, and supporting biodiversity, among other areas.

These groups have fostered collaboration with schools, service clubs, businesses, NGOs, and Runanga, offering leadership and governance pathways to the next generation for seamless succession.

Catchment groups uphold key ECan draft plan values and strategies, such as leading collective pest management efforts, partnering for indigenous biodiversity and Mahinga Kai protection, and sharing high-quality data and advice. They are also positioned to innovate in adapting to climate change's economic and environmental impacts.

Farming communities have grown increasingly engaged through catchment group activities, benefiting from extension, science, and facilitation support. This momentum, along with the social capital built over years, presents an opportunity to align efforts with ECan's work programs and responsibilities.

However, the proposed reduction in community funding and the limited mention of catchment groups in the long-term plan's budget allocations are concerning. Collaboration with catchment groups is essential for achieving our region's strategic priorities. Through coordination, stakeholder engagement, education, training, and extension, catchment groups enhance participants' skills, enabling more active involvement in decision-making and implementation.

To ensure catchment groups continue as strategic environmental stewardship partners, we propose reallocating \$1 million towards them from the proposed work program budget. This modest investment, potentially augmented by community contributions, promises more efficiency and effectiveness than a purely regulatory approach.

We seek an opportunity to discuss our submission with ECan's Councillors and Senior Leadership team, showcasing catchment groups' tangible impacts across Canterbury. We believe that effectively allocated support from ECan could further amplify these efforts, ensuring a collaborative path toward a thriving, resilient Canterbury.

Kind Regards

**Ben Ensor**

Chair of the Hurunui District Landcare Group  
on Behalf of the named Canterbury Catchment Groups

*P/s: For return correspondence please contact Josh Brown*

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027 774 7778

**APPENDIX ONE: CANTERBURY CATCHMENT GROUPS/COLLECTIVES**

Ahuriri facilitator	Bridget Pringle	Bridget@irricon.co.nz
Living Landscapes South Canterbury	Mark Adams	mark.rocklands@gmail.com
Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective	Duncan Barr	duncanbarr@xtra.co.nz
Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective	David Acland	david@mtsomersstation.co.nz
Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture	David Birkett	dbirkett@fedfarm.org.nz
Eastern Plains Land User Group	Grant Miller	admin@eplug.co.nz
Waimakariri Landcare Group	Sam Spencer-Bower	samsb@xtra.co.nz
Sefton Salt Water Creek CG	Carolyn Latham	avlink@xtra.co.nz
Hurunui District Landcare Group	Ben Ensor	ssco@outlook.co.nz

