

23 April 2018

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Dear Suzette

Environment Canterbury Submission on draft Long-Term Plan 2018-28

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on your draft Long-Term Plan 2018-28. We would like to comment on the following activities.

Governance and Leadership

We acknowledge and appreciate the Council's continuing collaboration with Environment Canterbury and other Canterbury councils in regional forums, the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, and implementation of the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy. We note in particular Mayor Smith's leadership in the regional visitor strategy work programme of the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy, with Mayors Sam Broughton (Selwyn) and Winston Gray (Kaikōura). You and other Council staff also participate in the work of the Chief Executives Forum and the Policy, Corporate and Operations Forums.

We encourage the Council to maintain its commitment to regional collaboration, as we work together in the best interests of our region and its communities.

Mana whenua engagement

We commend and support the Council's recognition and ongoing engagement with the three papatipu rūnanga with an interest in the Mackenzie District: Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Te Rūnanga o Waihao and Te Rūnanga o Moeraki. It is also pleasing to see that regular meetings with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu are part of the Council strategy to develop Māori capacity to contribute to decision making processes.

Canterbury Water Management Strategy

For the past seven years Territorial Authorities, Environment Canterbury and Ngāi Tahu have worked together to implement the Mayoral Forum's Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS). An integral part of delivering this collaborative approach to water management in Canterbury has been the support of the joint committees of the Territorial Authorities and Environment Canterbury established under the Local Government Act. The committees have worked to develop local solutions to achieve the CWMS targets in their zone. We recognise the partnership

between Mackenzie District Council and Environment Canterbury to support the Upper Waitaki and Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora Zone Committees by providing secretariat and facilitation resources and look forward to continuing this partnership.

Biodiversity

Protecting indigenous biodiversity and restoring ecosystems and habitat for our native species is a new strategic priority for Environment Canterbury. This is in line with increasing local and national support for a joined-up approach from agencies to work together to halt the decline of our indigenous plants and animals. Environment Canterbury acknowledges the key role that Mackenzie District Council plays for terrestrial biodiversity protection and enhancement and looks forward to further supporting joint action in this area.

Mackenzie Basin: Opportunities for agency alignment

Environment Canterbury welcomes the opportunity to work with Mackenzie District Council and others to explore the integration opportunities coming from the Mackenzie Basin report recommendations. These include continuing to seek improvements in integration of compliance monitoring activities to support the work of both Councils, offering our assistance with the development of your District Plan and Plan Changes, and continuing to investigate and develop a one-stop-shop for consenting and compliance activities. With reference to the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail development, we look forward to working with the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee to find opportunities to align work programmes with this project.

We wish to be heard in support of our submission. In the meantime, if you have any queries in relation to our submission, please contact Cam Smith, Regional Leadership and Policy, on 027 429 2739.

Yours sincerely



Peter Scott
Deputy Chair