

2. NATURAL RESOURCES REGIONAL PLAN - WATER

Raymond Ford, Regional Council officer, tabled a document entitled, "Water – Our Future". The document is guided by and builds the Regional Policy Statement, examining water issues and management methods in greater detail. It is also a starting point for the preparation of the water chapter of the Natural Resources Regional Plan, providing a focus for discussion.

By asking specific questions, the Regional Council hoped that the document's readers will consider different ways to manage water issues and the adverse effects of land uses in the beds on the margins of rivers and lakes in Canterbury.

The document was divided into four parts:

- (i) Background
- (ii) Water quantity
- (iii) Water Quality
- (iv) Beds of rivers and lakes and their margins

In particular, the document sought to raise the issues associated with:

- The natural values of Canterbury's water bodies
- Protecting river values
- Safeguarding Canterbury's high quality groundwater
- Impact of structures in rivers and lakes
- Impact of land use on spring-fed streams
- Competition for water
- Water for towns and settlements
- Coastal lakes and wetlands

Readers of the report were asked to give thought to the following questions:

- Are the issues correctly identified and described?
- Are there issues that have been overlooked?
- Is the grouping of issues under the categories water quantity, water quality and beds and margins of rivers and lakes, useful, or should the issues be organised around a particular topic or theme?
- What management methods, or combination of methods, do you think would most effectively deal with the different issues?
- Are there better methods?

The closing date for submissions is 17 December 1999.

It was noted that Christchurch City Council officers are to arrange a seminar on the matter, as part of the process.