

6. **SUBMISSION ON CRC DISCUSSION DOCUMENT
– WATER - OUR FUTURE**

<p>Officer responsible Environmental Policy and Planning Manager Water Services Manager</p>	<p>Author Jenny Ridgen, Environmental Scientist Eric van Toor, Planning Team Leader, Water Services Robert Watts, Planning and Investigations, Water Services</p>
<p>Corporate Plan Output: Regional and District Plans and Policies</p>	

The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Environment Committee for a submission on the Canterbury Regional Council discussion document “Water – Our Future.”

Submissions on this discussion document will contribute to the preparation of the Water Chapter of the Natural Resources Regional Plan (NRRP). In addition to this document, which covers the whole region, the Regional Council is also in the process of preparing a discussion document specifically dealing with the water resources of Christchurch. Although it is not made clear in this discussion document, it is understood that Christchurch water resources will be dealt with as a sub-chapter of the Water Chapter in the NRRP.

The discussion document is presented in four parts, eg Background, Water Quantity, Water Quality and Beds of Rivers and lakes and their margins. The format of the document includes 40 questions, each presented with a variety of management options and a list of their advantages and disadvantages.

Being a regional document, the nature of the questions is often very general and the comments in the prepared draft submission tend to focus on how the various management options might affect urban water resources. The need for an integrated management approach involving key partnerships is stressed, as is the need for a thorough understanding of the costs and benefits involved in the different management options. The draft submission is attached.

Recommendation: That the Environment Committee approve the prepared submission on the Regional Council discussion document “Water – Our Future.”

Chairman’s Recommendation: For discussion.