

April 16, 2009

Christchurch City Council  
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**Submission on the Long-Term Council Community Plan 2009/2019**

We wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Our environmental, social, and economic health relies on the prudent and sustainable use of water. Local government is charged with managing our water resources and ensuring that they are used sustainably. It needs to put in place resource management structures that recognise the value of our waterways for all New Zealanders and will ensure that these values are upheld.

Some New Zealanders remember a time when rivers were clean and teeming with a diversity of life - the prudent management of our waterways will allow us to return to these days.

We submit that water resources need to be managed in a way that recognises the following values:

- All natural waterbodies should be suitable for contact recreation;
- All natural waterbodies should support healthy aquatic life;
- The mauri of all natural waterways should be maintained or improved;
- All coastal waters should be suitable for shellfish harvesting;
- On conservation land, all waterbodies should be maintained in their natural state;
- Sites of significance for riparian biodiversity should be maintained or improved.

These values should be incorporated as objectives into the regions freshwater resource management strategy.

People, industry and agriculture should be able to take and use water to meet their reasonable needs while ensuring that these values are upheld.

**Water management**

As part of their environmental management obligations, local government should develop a water management plan that lists all waterbodies that do not meet the

stated objectives. They should then develop a strategy for improving water quality that states how and by when the objectives will be achieved.

Where the values are already met, minimum flows, allocation regimes, and water quality standards should be set for the purpose of maintaining these values.

Where there is insufficient data to assess water quality, activities should be managed in a precautionary manner which maintains or improves the existing water quality.

Water allocation should not have a significant effect on the long-term groundwater yield. Groundwater takes that are hydrologically connected to rivers, lakes or wetlands need to be managed so that they protect these waterbodies.

In all cases, water should be used efficiently.

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