

What we'd like ECan to take on board

ECan's new 10-year plan is out for public comment. Please take some time to send them your thoughts.

Here are some points that the 350Christchurch team will be making:

- **ECan's key purpose is protecting our whenua, our taonga.** it's main purpose should not be to "facilitate sustainable development." ECan needs to give its priority to actively protecting and maintaining our environment and natural resources. If publicly elected ECan doesn't take this role for the people, what organisation does?
- **Take leadership in true sustainability** - ECan needs to be a leader in challenging the idea that "endless growth" is possible within the limits of natural resources, and to seriously support alternatives (farming, land-use, waste management, transport etc) that are truly sustainable, since endless growth is no longer an option.
- **Climate change needs to be front and centre** of every ECan work-stream & budget decision, not just under Risks and Hazards. How we farm, use our water, heat our homes, manage our waste, travel around - all impact on climate change & all can be used to tackle it.
- **Ecan - be a climate action leader!** Aiming to educate the community to be 'sustainable is way too unambitious. Take the lead, be an innovator, show businesses, organisations, individuals how to tackle climate change & reduce our carbon footprint and our waste in all areas of our lives. ***Put resources into this, it is URGENT right now!***
- **Start with ECan itself** - how are you modelling climate action? Think of signing up to [Our Climate Declaration](#) and build it into your whole organisation.
- **Biodiversity - great plan, give it teeth!** ECan's focus on protecting biodiversity and what's left of our natural resources is great - but put resources into it, give it teeth.
- **Enforce the regulations that are already there.** Keep cows out of the rivers, make enterprises pay the true cost of their business initiatives - not just the cost to their bottom line, but the cost to the rest of us in gastro outbreaks, dirty drinking water, unusable swimming holes and unneeded packaging.
- **Put adequate resources into this.** Clean up & resource your own processes so that eg the consents for each river are reviewed together & in a timely way and don't just accumulate ad hoc, so that suddenly there's no water in the river because the consents are all for different minimum takes. There has been no proper water management for a decade - put resources into cleaning it up NOW.

So much to think about. Let's cheer them on for creating a good plan in various ways, and for at least having a few democratically elected folk in there making a difference, for having (only just) said no to deep sea drilling in 2017...

But let's remind them that local bodies all round the world, elected by their citizens, are leading the charge on climate action - and that this involves cleaner & better farming & land use methods, better water and waste management, more efficient transport etc

ECan can do this too. With any luck central government will be pushing for this - ECan needs to be ready.

Some useful links

Help with the submission - Lan Phan, ECan councillor, has made a good [short video](#) to help those making submissions. For a quicky summary, go to 17.54 on the video

Business as usual is NOT an option - Drawdown - draw ECan's attention to this research into the most effective ways of tackling climate change, many of which would come into ECan's orbit of responsibility.

[Living the Change](#) - NZ-made doco from Happen Films that tells clearly how business as usual is no longer an option, and shows some of the ways we can change land-use, farming, waste management, housing etc.

**ECan submissions close
5pm Monday 26 March**

You can make a submission several ways -

Online - using ECan's [consultation portal \(external link\)](#) (NB 350ch members found this a bit clunky to use).

Post - [download the form](#) and send to: Freepost 1201, Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140.

Get a copy of the plan - go to the [ECan website](#) for the short & long versions - and a great plain version for vision-impaired!

Speak to your submission - tell ECan if you'd like to be part of the oral submissions hearings, on April 31, May 1 and 2 .

More info at the [ECan website](#).

and just when you hoped to get into the garden...

**Christchurch City Council long-term plan!
Submissions close on 13 April
CCC website [here](#)**