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# Standing up for Nature 2026

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Canterbury/West Coast  
Forest & Bird  
10 February 2026



# Tonight's talk

- Overview – an ambitious reform agenda
- Current consultations
- F&B Campaign updates
- Fast Track Approvals Act updates
- Election Year 2026 – getting active for nature

## BUILDING A NATURE-POSITIVE AOTEAROA FOR A PROSPEROUS RESILIENT FUTURE

Photo: Saddleback, Chalky Island Fiordland © Jake Osborne



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**GREENPEACE**

# An ambitious reform agenda



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## Local Government Reform Jigsaw



Image: <https://www.guardianonline.co.nz/news/councils-unpack-sweeping-government-reforms-for-christmas/> Jonathon Leask





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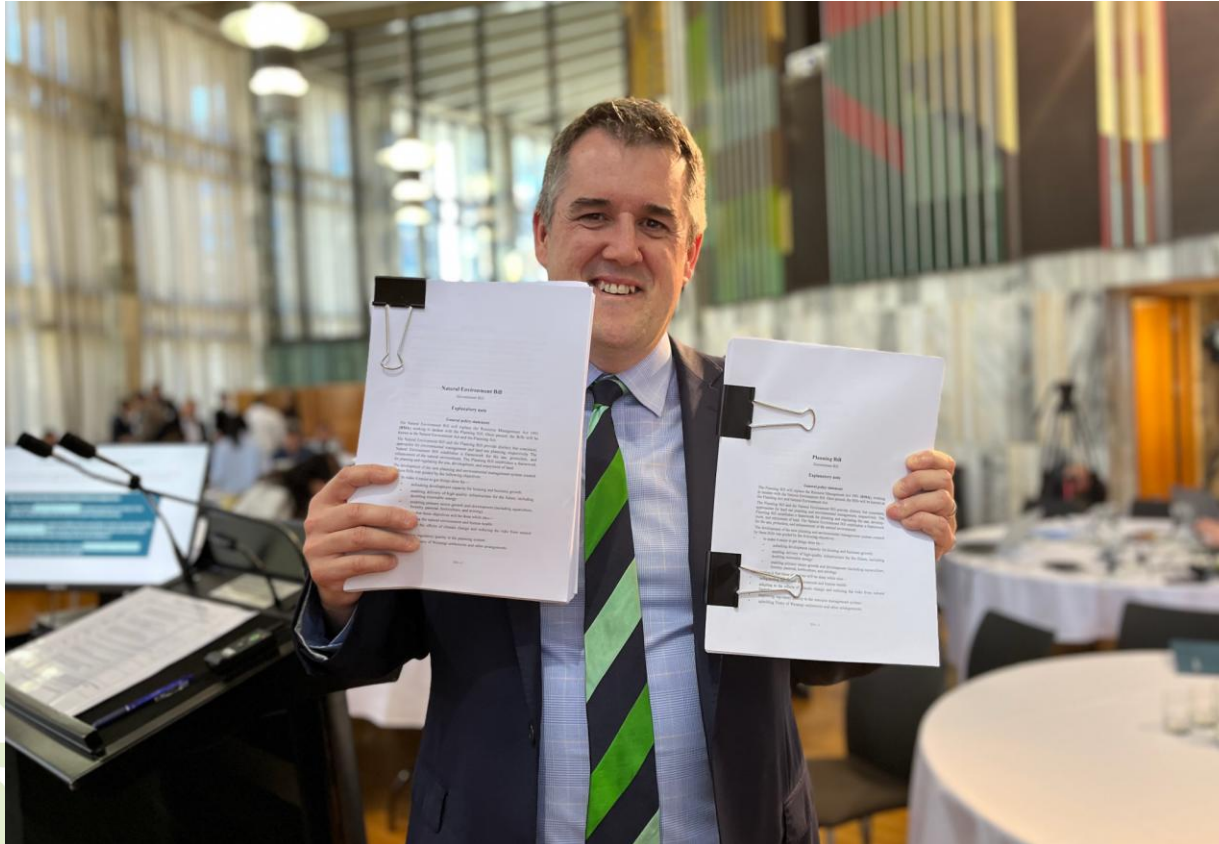
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# Current consultations





# Natural Environment & Planning Bills



**Submission Due:  
13 Feb 2026**

**No secret in Canterbury: Water is our most significant RM Issue**

**Canterbury urged to  
unite on nitrate crisis as  
water contamination  
worsens**

**Reports paint picture of declining fish populations in  
Canterbury rivers**

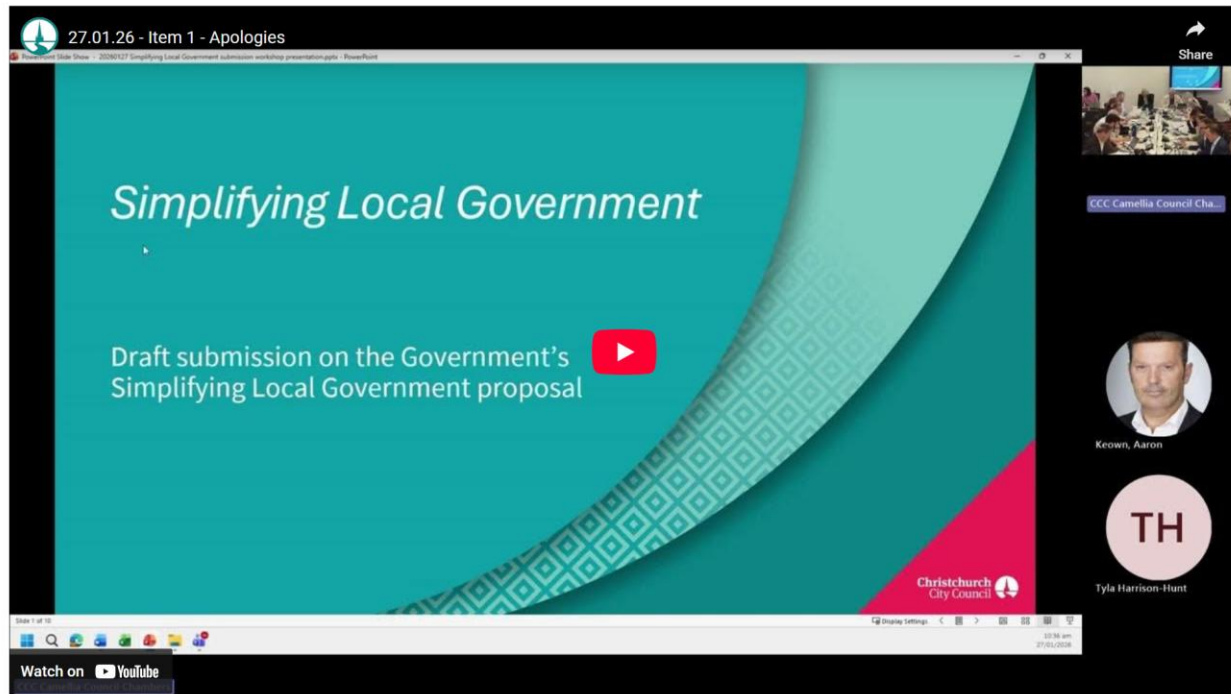
**Environment Canterbury has declared a  
nitrate emergency. Now what?**

**What's really going on with  
Canterbury's water**

**The native fish that  
foretold a river's collapse**

# Simplifying Local Government

27.01.26 – Council Workshop



**Feedback Due:  
20 Feb 2026**

Image: <https://councillive.ccc.govt.nz/meeting/27-01-26-council-workshop/>





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# F&B Campaign updates





# Campaign update: Browsing Pests



- **GAC Bill third reading imminent**
- **Draft HOSI HMPs – summary of submissions 30 March 2026**
- **Write to political parties & agencies**



# Campaign update: Denniston

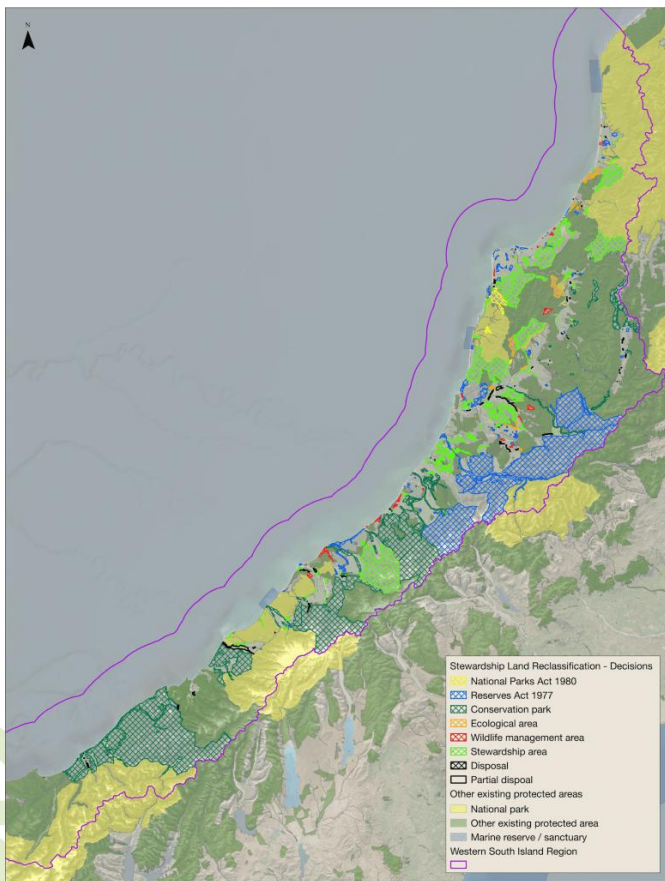


- **Sign the petition**
- **FT application imminent**
- **Bioblitz**
- **Market stalls**

Image: Neil Silverwood



# Campaign update: Stewardship Land



CONSERVATION

## Potaka rebuffs advice; refuses 72,000ha expansions to national parks

### MOC Decisions 11 December 2025

● Minister accepted ● Minister rejected

Conservation Park



Scenic Reserve



Disposal



National Park



Wildlife Management Area



Historic Reserve



Source: Minister for Conservation Tama Potaka • [Graph excludes land classifications with unanimous decisions]

Graph: <https://newsroom.co.nz/2026/01/21/potaka-rebuffs-advice-refuses-72000ha-expansions-to-national-parks/>

newsroom.





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# Fast Track Approvals Act updates





# Fast Track update

- Trans Tasman Resources – REJECTED (draft decision)
- Waihi North Gold Mine - APPEAL
- Denniston – NO APPLICATION YET
- Mackenzie solar farms – TWO APPLICATIONS IN PROCESS
- Taiko Critical Mining (Barrytown) – NO APPLICATION YET
- Waitaha Hydro – IN PROCESS



# Whakaoratia Te Waitaha

## Rescue the Waitaha

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnVgyltXZj8>





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# **Election Year 2026 – getting active for nature**





# Getting active

- Share with friends and family
- Encourage and activate young people
- Keep an eye on Fast Track websites/social media/comms
- Look out for “Building a Nature Positive Future”



- Branch toolkit coming – posters/flyers etc.
- Candidate meetings – consider hosting one





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# Pātai/Questions

