

**From:** [Kelsey Baker](#)  
**To:** [RPS](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on Regional Policy Statement  
**Date:** Thursday, 2 September 2021 9:15:53 p.m.

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Name of submitter: Kelsey Baker

This is a submission on the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021

We all rely on fresh, clean water for our survival. I call on you to prioritise the health of ecosystems, people and animals across Otago when adopting your Regional Policy Statement on freshwater.

I want to see an Otago where rivers run clear and clean, native plants and animals thrive alongside waterways, and drinking water is safe. The Regional Policy Statement must keep the health of water at its core so it can inform strong plans to clean up and protect water, and create a safe climate for all.

The National Policy Statement on freshwater says te mana o te wai must be preserved - that means that rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands and drinking water must be protected.

I am calling on the Otago Regional Council to:

- Act according to the national plan, which identifies limits based on environmental impacts. In order to do this, councils must phase out synthetic nitrogen fertiliser.
- Invest in regenerative organic farming that works with nature, not against it, to help mitigate the climate crisis and prevent water degradation.
- stop letting waste from town pipes draining out into lakes.
- limit the amount of oil run off from boats on lakes where oil is seen sitting on the top on the shores of the lakes.
- start catching all the run offs of clean water that are just going straight into the sea, this should be the most important thing that starts happening and should be our main focus (rather than blaming cows). We should be holding onto our clean water and using it accordingly.

NZ is one of the luckiest countries because we have so much water & it is clean. Most other countries are running out of clean water - therefore we will be one of the most natural resource rich countries so I think fresh clean water will be the new 'gold' and rather than blaming the cows etc we need to be focusing on working together with farmers and asking them how they could work within helping keep cleaner waters which have already done and they have already not been able to use large areas of their farms due to keeping cows away from rivers etc rather than enforcing far more rules on them. Agriculture is NZ's backbone of NZ they keep our economy going. We need to be focusing on keeping our clean water for ourselves rather than giving it away to other countries for free.

- I confirm that I could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
- I am not directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that adversely affects the environment and does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition
- I DO NOT wish to be heard in support of my submission
- If others make a similar submission, I will NOT consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing

Sincerely,

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