

From: [Ian Frazer](#)
To: [RPS](#)
Subject: Submission on Regional Policy Statement
Date: Thursday, 2 September 2021 9:33:54 p.m.

Name of submitter: Ian Frazer

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

We all rely on fresh, clean water for our survival. You are the main body responsible for making sure that everyone in Otago has access to fresh, clean water. That means making sure that all ecosystems are as healthy as they can be. I want this to be in the forefront of your Regional Policy Statement on freshwater.

It is about time that Otago has rivers that run clear and clean. We want native plants and animals to thrive alongside all our waterways, and all drinking water to be safe. The Regional Policy Statement must put the health of water at its core. We want to see robust plans coming from the ORC to clean up and protect water and make it safe for all of us.

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.

It is very well documented now that the health of our waterways has been getting worse and this is linked to the growth of intensive farming, especially intensive dairying.

It is time that we turned this round and this is where strong and effective leadership has to come from the ORC. We cannot afford to let this go on for any longer; for the longer we leave it, the greater the threat to our health and wellbeing, and the more difficult it is going to be when we do decide to tackle the problem.

I am calling on the Otago Regional Council to:

- Put te mana o te wai first, so that all other objectives in the Regional Policy Statement are informed by the priority to care for water and keep it healthy
- Commit to phasing out synthetic nitrogen fertiliser and lowering cow stocking rates - two things that are incompatible with protecting te mana o te wai
- Tackle the climate crisis by lowering cow stocking rates and phasing out synthetic nitrogen fertiliser.
- Consider cumulative effects of pollution such as intensive dairying and too much synthetic nitrogen fertiliser, rather than simply in each individual catchment. What happens upstream affects people, plants and animals downstream.
- 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.
- Apply the precautionary principle to freshwater management. Intensive dairying and synthetic nitrogen fertiliser have long-term effects on water, climate and human health. With emerging research showing links between nitrate contamination from intensive dairying in drinking water and health effects like bowel cancer, the Council must act now to protect the health of our communities.
- Invest in regenerative organic farming that works with nature, not against it, to help mitigate the climate crisis and prevent water degradation.

I am calling on the ORC to please act decisively and convincingly in favour of restoring the good health of our waterways. This is a critical moment in our history where we can do something positive for our health and the health of our countryside.

- 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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