

From: [Philippa Jamieson](#)
To: [RPS](#)
Subject: Submission on Regional Policy Statement
Date: Thursday, 2 September 2021 10:16:53 p.m.

Name of submitter: Philippa Jamieson

Submission on the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021
2 September 2021

Kā mihi mahana ki a koutou!

Growing up in Otago I have swum and played in lakes and rivers around the region, but there are far fewer now that I want to swim in - or even could swim in, due to pollution, slimy unhealthy waterways, or simply lack of water altogether. This must change for the better!

Fresh clean water is essential for humans and all the creatures we share the earth with. I urge you to make the health of ecosystems, people and animals across Otago the top priority in the Regional Policy Statement on fresh water.

I recognise Kāi Tahu rakatirataka and rights in freshwater and eagerness to work in partnership with the Crown to restore and protect our fresh water and freshwater ecosystems.

I want to see the rivers in Otago run clear and clean, where lakes and wetlands flourish, where native plants and animals thrive in and alongside waterways, and drinking water is safe.

The Regional Policy Statement must keep the health of water at its core, with 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 the integrity of rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands and drinking water must be protected.

Intensive dairying is a major cause of water and climate pollution. If we want rivers, lakes and drinking water to be healthy for generations to come, we need to tackle sources of pollution - like intensive dairying.

I call on the Otago Regional Council to:

- Put te mana o te wai first, so 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 to lowering cow stocking rates - doing this will help protect te mana o te wai, as well as tackling the climate crisis by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Consider the cumulative effects of pollution such as intensive dairying; abstraction of large quantities of water for irrigation; erosion and sedimentation; 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. Nitrate contamination from intensive dairying in drinking water is linked with adverse health effects like bowel cancer. The Council must act now to protect the health of our communities.
- Encourage and invest in regenerative organic farming that works with nature not against it, that suits the natural conditions, to help mitigate the climate crisis, build up and stabilise soils for erosion control, and prevent water degradation.

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

- a. adversely affects the environment; and
- b. does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

I wish to be heard in support of my submission.

If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.

Naku noa, nā

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