

**From:** [Sue Mccafferty](#)  
**To:** [RPS](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on Regional Policy Statement  
**Date:** Thursday, 2 September 2021 9:38:57 p.m.

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Name of submitter: Sue Mccafferty

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

I have lived in Otago for many years now. I have brought up four children, and experienced so many places in this beautiful area of Aotearoa New Zealand when camping and tramping with the children. I have worked in many areas too, and have heard older farmers lamenting how creeks and rivers have dried up because of irrigation. Our land is being destroyed, and our rivers are being misused. There will come a time that water will be such a precious commodity that it will be more precious than gold.

It doesn't take much to see the effects of intensive dairying in our sick and slimy rivers. What's worrying is what you can't see: the invisible nitrate contamination making its way into our drinking water supplies.

Nitrate contamination has been linked to bowel cancer and premature births at rates much lower than what we're finding in drinking water. It's wreaking havoc on rivers, causing algal blooms that choke out native fish and plants. One can see the effects of this deadly poison in so many places.

I'm calling on the Otago Regional Council to:

- Put te mana o te wai - the health of water - first
- Commit to phasing out synthetic nitrogen fertiliser and lowering cow stocking rates
- Consider cumulative effects of pollution such as intensive dairying
- Apply the precautionary principle to freshwater management
- Invest in regenerative organic farming that works with nature, not against it, to help keep our water clean and our climate healthy

- 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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