

**From:** [Manu Sinclair](#)  
**To:** [RPS](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on Regional Policy Statement  
**Date:** Friday, 3 September 2021 9:16:54 a.m.

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Name of submitter: Manu Sinclair

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.

We know intensive dairying is a key driver 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 along with Urban Pollution.

- 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.

Encourage investment in regenerative organic farming that works with nature, not against it, to help mitigate the climate crisis and prevent water degradation.

ORC has had thirty years to consider the changes that would need to be made to Irrigation and Water Rights Allocations, expressly with regards to the overdue upcoming changes to these Mining Water Right Allocations. Yet they have continued to disregard the health of the Manuherikia River by encouraging and consenting large Irrigation schemes, encouraging land owners to jeopardise their land and financial health by granting consents based on Mining Water Rights which are due to be extinguished and replaced by environmentally fit for purpose allocations. Their first responsibility is to the River, and then to provide clarity to it's Water Rights holders about how to move forward with these upcoming changes. They continue to ignore the Reports provided stating that this is the required course of action, ORC continues to ignore the need to give back water to the River in order to return it to a healthy state for future generations. ORC can no longer keep their heads in the sand, change is happening, and it is time to embrace change or be left behind.

- 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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