

From: [Paul Smith](#)
To: [RPS](#)
Subject: Submission on Regional Policy Statement
Date: Friday, 3 September 2021 9:16:52 a.m.

Name of submitter: Paul Smith

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

I am appalled at the lack of action taken to support the Manuherakia River to maintain a healthy flow year round. I am dismayed at the intensive dairying being allowed in areas where the land cannot support it - Central Otago being one such place. I am disappointed with the water quality of our rivers.

I call on the Regional Council to take true guardianship of the water under its jurisdiction and to prioritise the health of the environment over private interests.

The Regional Policy Statement must keep the health of water at its core so the long term health of the ecosystem we all depend on is safe and secure and sustainable for all. Short term financial interests are not as important as the long term survival of our environment. Farmers and others all depend on this same environment. Some restrictions are inevitably required to ensure healthy waterways.

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:

- 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
- 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 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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