

Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust
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Environment Canterbury
200 Tuam Street
Christchurch

11 April 2024

Kia Ora,

Submission on Environment Canterbury Draft Long Term Plan 2024-34

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Council's 2024-34 Draft Long Term Plan. We value the opportunity to provide feedback.

The Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust is a Christchurch City Council controlled organisation founded in 2010 for the benefit of Banks Peninsula/Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū residents and visitors. Our vision:

Ko te whakawhanake kaitiaki taiao nā te whakahōu ara hīkoi, ara paihikara, te whakaniko rerenga rauropi, te whakamana mātauranga me te mahi tahi ki ngā tāngata e kaingākau kaha ana ki Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū hoki.

Developing environmental guardians of the future through improved public walking and biking access, enhancing biodiversity, promoting knowledge and working in partnership with others who share our commitment to Banks Peninsula.

The Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust strongly supports:

- A targeted rate for biodiversity for the Christchurch and Banks Peninsula to pay for additional biodiversity work in this area to deliver enduring biodiversity and biosecurity benefits. We think the best use of this funding would be for:
 - A landscape-scale strategy for weed control and implementation of this.
 - Additional investment in animal pest control
 - Permanent protection of priority habitats through conservation covenants, with the ongoing costs for biodiversity management being met by the landowners in perpetuity
 - Investment in well-run, collaborative, landscape scale biodiversity projects connecting Banks Peninsula, Christchurch City and the Canterbury plains, which deliver high quality biodiversity and community outcomes while avoiding duplication of effort – for example Te Kākahu Kahukura and Pest Free Banks Peninsula.
 - Ongoing substantive funding support for community-led conservation organisations that have an excellent track record, to help ensure their long-term viability to deliver outcomes
 - Greater resourcing within Council to deliver services that are critical to protecting biodiversity, such as monitoring and community education

- Banks Peninsula is a special case because of its geology, plant and invertebrate endemism, national hot spot for native fish (stream too small and steep for salmonoids), links with marine reserves, sea birds, Hector's dolphin habitat. When protected and cared for, land regenerates to native scrub and forest without the need for extensive planting and streams can recover and flourish. Little land on Banks Peninsula is in public ownership and largely relies on protection by private landowners.
- Christchurch is the second largest city in Aotearoa, home to people passionate about the outdoors and their environment. There is potential to harness their active support so that wetland biodiversity continues to improve, native forest expands and native fauna can safely move between Banks Peninsula, the Port Hills and the city.
- Banks Peninsula and Christchurch both have well-established and effective community organisations that can support biodiversity work and manage new projects.

The Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust supports:

- Continuation of the \$600,000 annually in funding for the elimination programme within Pest Free Banks Peninsula. To keep up with the cost of inflation, this could be adjusted annually so it doesn't decrease over time.
- Further actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Support enhancing carbon removal and promoting forest management processes which reduce climate risks. Support reduction of emissions from industrial processing.
- Efforts in climate-smart pest management.
- Development of network of climate-resilient ecosystems.
- Commitment to modern, reliable, affordable public transport. Decarbonisation of the fleet. Encouragement of mode shift.
- Strong environmental regulation and protection to improve water quality and quantity and ecosystem health.
- Commitment to wetlands, recreational contact safety, indigenous habitat, mahinga kai, and pest and weed control.
- Option 1 – Effective Environmental Regulation and Protection services with significant investment towards community funding.
- Option 1 – Full investment in committed work programme of service improvements to public transport.
- Option 1 – Effective and efficient community preparedness and response to hazards services with significant increase in investment across the service.
- Additional Diamond Harbour ferry crossings and refurbishment of the existing ferry. This ferry service provides a public transport connection to walking and cycling on Banks Peninsula.
- All of the strategic aspirations in the community outcomes section.
- Demonstration of 'Treaty Partner excellence'

The Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust seeks in addition:

(Relating to Option 1 - Effective Environmental Regulation and Protection services with significant investment towards community funding.)

- Increase in funding for the region-wide contestable Waitaha Wai Action to Impact fund to \$600K, rather than reducing to \$300K. \$300K is very little for the biggest region in New Zealand and the funding is so helpful for community groups to be able to deliver outcomes very efficiently.
- Increase/retain funding for the Zone Committee Action Plan Budget funding to \$75K, rather than reducing to \$50K, so that a combination of bigger and smaller projects can be funded on Banks Peninsula. This is a very useful source of funding for private landowners and community groups on Banks Peninsula and provides a key mechanism for the Zone Committee to engage with their community.
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit on this Plan. We would value the opportunity to speak in support of our submission at the hearing.

Ngā mihi



Shelley Washington
Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust Manager / Manahautū