

SUBMISSION TO THE NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

Margaret Snowdon,

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28/04/2017

Dear Sirs/Madam, As a private citizen from dry Canterbury, and as a mature adult teacher with a long and close association with the Canterbury high country, I am concerned in particular about two aspects of the N.P.S. on the table. I have been part of the Water Forum when it came to Christchurch for public involvement, and am relatively well informed on the issues. I applaud the attempt to set a national water policy standard, but refinements are needed. I do not agree with the argument that there are no organic or sustainable management practices available to our agricultural sector.

1. ON THE MATTER OF REGIONAL COUNCIL RESONSIBILITIES, page 12, Objective A2. This elevation of economic considerations to the level or above of ecological imperitives has actually been democratically rejected in the progress of the RMA through parliament. This I find to be a back door method of re-inserting it.
2. STOCK EXCLUSION. As a long time camper and tramper in the Lake Sumner area of the Canterbury high country, I know well that the matter of fencing off and excluding beef cattle from sensitive wetlands and tender parts of lake frontages must be addressed sooner rather than later. This document, while including the need to early fence off lowland and plains beasts, plus dairy cows in the high country, has not included beef cattle in the high country. I understand that it is too extensive to fence off all such alpine lakes and rivers, but the land owners, and people who appreciate the land and water well know the more sensitive areas, especially tender wetlands, for example the swampy areas at the top of Lake Taylor in the Sumner area, where for the last 50 years I have seen nothing but pugging and damage all along that verge, eroding into the lake. It could be easily fenced. It is time to become firm about what we all know. Margaret Snowdon.