

Submission on Christchurch City Council Updated Draft Annual Plan 2020-2021

Aotearoa Water Action Incorporated 29/06/2020

Aotearoa Water Action wish to submit on the Proposed Excess Water Use Charge

Aotearoa Water Action do not support the proposed excess water charge. Key points are:

1. Opposed in principle to charging for domestic water use.
2. Council should be pushing hard for a moratorium on export water bottling to protect and preserve future supplies. Lobbying ECan and Central Government.
3. Explore education/incentivisation and smarter technology i.e. rainwater collection, swales.
4. Opens the door to commercialisation of water supply which has been proven to be very damaging to communities. There are examples in Portugal and Melbourne.

Proper management and incentivising reduced consumption is a better choice. Two options are:

1. Rain Water Tanks: All new housing should include rain water tanks and subsidies be made available for existing housing to incorporate rain water tanks. Refer to supporting document "Regulating for supplementary water supply (rainwater tanks)" produced by the Canterbury Sustainable Homes Working Party. This will reduce the load on the Christchurch City drinking water supply and infrastructure
2. Christchurch Aquifers: CCC should apply for a Conservation Order to the NZ Government to protect our aquifers from exploitation by water bottling companies, intensive farming/horticulture, etc. enabling more control of the load on the Christchurch City Council drinking water aquifers