



**Environment Canterbury
Christchurch**

**Submission on: Preliminary Draft Land Use Recovery Plan
And Appendix 2**

**Response by: Avon/Otakaro Network
Co-Chairs, Mark Gibson and Evan Smith**

The Avon-Ōtakaro Network [AvON] is a network of individuals and organisations promoting the future use of the residential red zone lands as an ecological and recreational reserve. We wish to establish a community-driven science-informed living memorial to rejuvenate and nurture the long-term environmental, economic, community and spiritual wellbeing of the eastern suburbs and of those living throughout greater Christchurch. Our aim is to turn a tragedy into an opportunity, a polluted drain into a vibrant river system, and exhaustion and despair into hope and inspiration.

The AvON submission is a request about managing, protecting and restoring the natural and physical resources during the recovery of Christchurch and beyond. Its aim is to achieve integrated, consistent and co-ordinated management of our natural resources with the Land Use Framework, Housing and Business Principals and Responses of the Draft Land Use Recovery Plan by providing certainty of protection over the ways that natural and physical resources are to be managed and by creating an awareness of the opportunities for restoration.

The Resource Management Act defines natural and physical resources as:

“Land, water, air, soil, minerals, and energy, all forms of plants and animals (whether native to New Zealand or introduced), and all structures.”

The purpose of the Act is defined in Section 5:

“(1) The purpose of this Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

(2) In this Act ‘sustainable management’ means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety while:

- (a) sustaining the potential of the natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
- (b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and*
- (c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.”*

Point 1

Preliminary Draft Land Use Recovery Plan - Priority 1 – R 1

The AvON submission is to achieve sustainable management of the natural and physical resources of Christchurch, and puts forward the following:

The Draft Land Use Recovery Plan states that the new chapter to the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement will identify provisions including (but not limited to):

“methods to ensure integration of land use with natural, cultural, social and economic outcomes, transport and other infrastructure including stormwater management”

AvON requests that the following are included in the methods to ensure integration of land use with the natural environment:

Investigate and plan for natural hazards –

- Reassess the risks and susceptibilities of natural hazards
- Report and map the results to inform land use planning and development

Reduce flood risks and restore drainage capacity of waterways

- include flood mitigation; stopbanks and other works;
- include resilient sustainable infrastructure in rebuild

Plan for stormwater management

- develop an SMP for each catchment to fulfil the requirement for catchment-wide stormwater discharge consent.

Act on opportunities for stormwater treatment and improving the water quality and ecosystem health of waterways

- include stormwater treatment systems
- stream and river restoration
- riparian zone restoration
- establishment of constructed wetlands

Use LIUDD/stormwater treatment systems/wetlands to attenuate stormwater flows, reduce sediment, and improve quality of stormwater into waterways

- during rebuilding consider changing the form of waterways to enhance stream ecology
- plant river banks to provide food sources, habitat and shade.

Act on opportunities to reduce sewage overflows and their effects

- reduce the incidence and effects of sewage overflows - during the rebuild, improve wastewater infrastructure to reduce/avoid wet weather sewage overflows directly to waterways; minimising their effect.

Protect groundwater and springs

- incorporate land use controls to protect groundwater and springs
- incorporate the daylighting of streams

- ensure land use controls over the unconfined aquifer
- investigate potential effects of foundation systems on groundwater
- encourage the retention of natural springs and daylighting of streams.

Assess, retain and enhance biodiversity

- assess, plan, rehabilitate and monitor highest-value ecosystems; biodiversity corridors, reserves, mahinga kai; inanga spawning areas
- assess protected areas, highest-value ecosystems and species affected by earthquakes
- investigate and recommend sites suitable for biodiversity corridors, reserves and mahinga kai
- investigate establishment of an eco-sanctuary in available land along the Avon River/Ōtākaro
- rehabilitate inanga spawning sites.

Support community gardens, local food production and urban forestry

- on available land, support development of community gardens, orchards and urban forestry

Provide access to and opportunities for outdoor recreation

- promote and advertise current available facilities
- maintain and develop recreation corridors, networks and facilities
- provide for passive recreation, visual amenity and community wellbeing during rebuild support the repair and development of recreation facilities/networks
- provide access for people with disabilities
- consider the establishment of water sports areas on or alongside the Avon River/ Ōtākaro
- provide equitable access to and distribution of open spaces, parks and natural areas

Act on opportunities to restore and enhance mahinga kai

- progressively restore and enhance mahinga kai resources and sites and the traditions of customary use associated with such resources
- promote the principle of Ki Uta Ki Tai as a culturally appropriate approach to enhancing, restoring and managing mahinga kai
- establish pā harakeke, rongoā and native plantings.

Point 2

Appendix 2: Amendments to the Canterbury Regional Policy statement

To achieve the purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991, Issue 6.1 (p2) must read as follows:

*“Having a range of affordable housing options connected to community and strategic infrastructure that provides for residents participation in social, cultural, **environmental** and economic activities; and”*

Issue 6.1.3 – Adverse Effects arising from development

It is acknowledged by AvON that the Draft Land Use Recovery Plan Appendix 2 identifies *“that development can result in adverse effect on the environment, which if not mitigated where appropriate, could result in inappropriate outcomes for the region’s natural and physical resources.....”*

We note, however, that the following Objectives and Policies do not name all the elements of the natural environment subject to risk or enhancement opportunity:

- Objective 6.2.3 (p10) “Enabling urban recovery, rebuilding and development
- Policy 6.3.1 (p13) takes into account significant natural resources
- Policy 6.3.2 (p16) provides for environmental quality
- Policy 6.3.3 (p18) outline development plans and rules will identify significant cultural, natural and historic or heritage features and values, and show how they are to be protected and/or enhanced.
- Policy 6.3.8 (27) (4), (i) avoid significant adverse ecological effects
(l) avoid adverse effects on existing surface water quality

AvON therefore requests that the same points listed in Point 1 of this submission are incorporated into the Objectives and Policies of Appendix 2 of the Land Use Recovery Plan.

The Avon/Otakaro Network seeks to maintain the natural and physical environment and at the same time collaboratively seek and deliver on every opportunity for enhancement. This is a challenge which the development of Christchurch places before us and it is up to all of us to realise this goal.

We recommend this Submission to you as a sustainable pathway for the present and a resilient future.

Mark Gibson Co-Chair

Evan Smith Co-Chair

March 2013