

SUBMISSION TO ECAN'S ANNUAL PLAN 2022-23

Torfrida Wainwright 18 April 2022

Kia ora. I'm a member of Extinction Rebellion Otautahi. Three years ago Extinction Rebellion sounded the alarm on climate and we asked Christchurch City Council to declare a climate emergency, and wonderfully you did!

Your annual plan contains a lot of good climate-focused measures. But the alarm bells are clanging even louder now and **we are running out of time!**

The UN's latest IPCC report (March 2022) makes it clear that governmental global inaction has us hurtling toward 2.7 degrees of heating in the coming decades. This means coming ready or not we will have...

- Climate tipping points, like polar ice sheet collapse, happening faster than predicted.
- [30-50% of species](#) likely to be wiped out, including a lot of our food pollinators.
- Yields of staple crops will drop, triggering ongoing [global food supply disruptions](#) and food crises
- Much of the tropics will be made [uninhabitable for humans and indeed for plant photosynthesis](#).
- Worldwide more than [1.5 billion people](#) will be displaced.
- Social tipping points are shifting even faster – the big powers are wrangling over oil and other scarce resources. Global trade in oil, fertiliser, wheat etc may break down, in a worldwide economic collapse.
- In many countries people are taking to the streets to protest the cost of living and demanding change. NZ's Freedom camp shows how easily people who are hurt, angry & confused can be persuaded down dangerous paths unless they can see practical collective pathways through these interconnected crises.

The single most important intervention to stop runaway global warming is to cap fossil fuel use and scale it down, on a binding annual schedule, until globally the industry is mostly dismantled by around 2050.

It CAN be done if we treated the climate crisis as an emergency.

What would it look like if central government treated the climate crisis as an emergency?

Here's a set of scenarios we've pulled together from thinkers in these fields

1. **Stop Aotearoa's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030** – cease all exploration, production, import and use of coal, oil and gas. Stop intensive dairying.
2. **Bring in a managed energy descent - maximise efficient energy use and minimise waste** – use some form of universal rationing/quota scheme to incentivise individuals and businesses to reduce their energy use. Stop food and packaging waste, planned obsolescence. Reduce non-essential travel. Localise production of food, energy and essentials.
3. **Shift to a steady-state economy based on collective welfare, not unsustainable growth and resource overshoot** – Change the banking system to allow this. Re-nationalise essential services eg electricity and transport...

4. **Repair and protect the land, water and wild areas we depend on for food and carbon sinks** – expand regenerative land use, end synthetic nitrogen fertilizer and overstocking, expand our carbon sinks of bush, wetland and urban tree canopy. End bottom trawling

Greenpeace IOPCC report dairy <https://www.greenpeace.org/aotearoa/press-release/ipcc-report-demonstrates-dairy-action-needed/>

5. **Plan and rebuild our houses, cities and infrastructure to meet the coming challenges – starting NOW!...** practical ways of adapting to floods, sea-level rise, petrol/diesel shortage and influx of climate refugees.
6. **Remove inequities of wealth, housing and income security** – guarantee universal access to a basic income, affordable housing, free basic services (health, education, transport, energy...). Tax the richest to fund income security for everyone... This is crucial – rationing petrol or food won't work unless we are all in it together.
7. **And lastly but in fact firstly** – replace the voices of the vested interests that are driving our fossil-fuelled 'growth' economy off the climate cliff with new forms of participatory democracy. Embrace the Matike Mai pathway enabling tangata tiriti and tangata whenua to co-create new forms of co-governance based on our shared values. This also is crucial – all the other changes will not work unless we decide them together.

Where does Christchurch City Council fit into all this?

- Localisation of food, energy and basic necessities will be crucial to our survival. Lots here can be done at a local level – transport, land use, water regulations, housing, infrastructure...
- Use your planners, scientists, accountants, community networks – all your clever, engaged people - to explore and work on these scenarios NOW!
- Be a voice for our region and keep demanding that central government treat the climate crisis as if it is an actual emergency because it is!

With best wishes for all your mahi.

(References still to come)