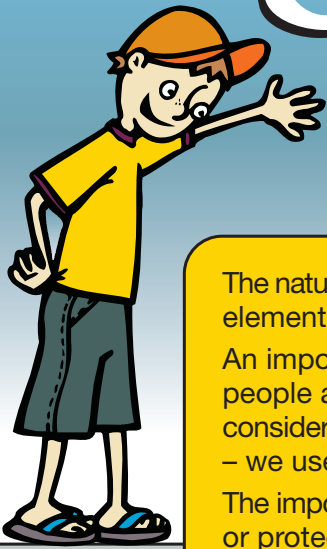


Use... but don't abuse!



The natural environment is made up of various elements such as air, land, and water. An important relationship exists between people and the natural environment. We consider these elements as natural resources – we use them in a lot of different ways. The important thing is how we use, develop or protect natural resources so that they continue to be available and healthy for future generations of Cantabrians.

It's the law!

When a natural resource is used often and in a lot of different ways it can become depleted and degraded if it isn't looked after properly. To help guide how we plan to use and protect natural resources, the Government developed the Resource Management Act (RMA). The RMA is law, which means everyone in New Zealand must follow it. Environment Canterbury's job is to make sure that the RMA is put into practice and obeyed in Canterbury.

Down by the riverside

Water is an example of a natural resource that we use a lot in Canterbury.



This is Your Life - Rangitata

See if you can guess the different users of the Rangitata River. Match the description with the picture.

You know us well, Rangitata. We use you to water our land and stock. Because of you we are able to provide food and jobs for people in Canterbury and New Zealand. Farms like ours create money that supports the local and New Zealand economy.

Who am I?

Giddy, Rangitata. Thanks for a great weekend. Remember us, we were the ones kayaking, swimming and fishing. We like the way you are so clean. It is important to us that there is enough water to enjoy our sports.

Who am I?



Hello there, Rangitata. We don't often see you but we do use you in a lot of different ways. The water that you provide is used for both cleaning and making our materials, and for the hygiene of our employees.

Who am I?

Hey, Rangitata. We can sometimes forget where you originally come from but you are very important to us. We enjoy drinking your clean water and also using you for cooking, cleaning and watering our gardens.

Who am I?



Wow! Everyone who uses water has lots of important needs and wants

Will there be enough water for everyone?
How do we decide who gets the water?

Environment Canterbury must refer to the RMA as well as listen to what Canterbury people think, feel and want. The final decision is based on weighing up all the facts.

Stop the Press!

Native animals use natural resources, but who will speak for them? Here is your chance to help them speak out.

Imagine you are a wrybill or a torrent fish who lives in and around the Rangitata River. What would your needs and wants be?

Write a letter to Cr Mark Oldfield on behalf of your chosen animal explaining why the river is important.

The winner of each category wins a \$20 gift book voucher, receives a reply from Cr Mark Oldfield and may get their letter published in the next Living Here. They may also get a visit from Cr Mark Oldfield at their school.

Be sure to get your entry to us by the closing date of Wednesday, February 25. Winners will be notified by Wednesday, March 3.

Send to: Letter Competition
Environmental Education
Freepost 1209
P O Box 345, Christchurch

Conditions: Judge's decisions are final. Entries will not be returned and will become the property of Environment Canterbury.

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Age Group (please tick one)

- 5-7 years old
- 8-10 years old
- 11-13 years old

Remember to attach your letter!

