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Environment Canterbury should not be putting its consent charges up. A lot of business's are already struggling to stay afloat in this Covid 19 world. The Government realizes this and has put in place measures to cut compliance costs for business's to help them through these tough uncertain times of problems caused by Covid 19, yet ECAN either are not aware or don't care about the reality of how hard it is to actually make money in private enterprise in an ever increasingly competitive changing world. Over a number of years now ECAN has slowly turned into a bureaucratic empire needing more and more funds for its ever-increasing compliance staff to extract more and more money out of private enterprise to support its own existence. ECAN should be cutting back its staff and the infrastructure needed to shuffle this mountain of paper work around. It is not contributing to the local or national economy; in fact, it is the opposite. It is a burden placed on normal hard-working people who want to contribute to the local and national economy but are being put off trying because of overpriced unnecessary compliance costs. Look at the Consent To Farm process now. How many Consultants and Farm Environment Plan Accessors are taking money off farmers unnecessary because ECAN put in place consent rules that have created another layer of bureaucracy and form of employment for certain people to be able to extract money from struggling business's. Making people pay annually or biannually for the same consent year after year is just price gouging and lining the pockets of unproducing people. If nothing is changing on farm or in a business from year to year then they shouldn't be having to pay consent fees so often. In this Covid 19 world the Government has realized what an unnecessary constraint all these compliance costs that have built up over the years is having on private enterprise, so are now actively putting measures in place to eliminate unnecessary costs to help stimulate the economy. If ECAN puts up its consent charges then it is just undoing all the hard work the Government is putting in place to cut costs so that business's and people can survive in these changing times. People in ECAN should be thinking of the wider economy and how they can help it and not burden it with ever increasing costs.

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