

Tabled at Hearing 27/03/2013.

**IN THE MATTER**

of the Resource  
Management Act 1991  
(RMA)

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER**

of the Environment  
Canterbury: Proposed  
Canterbury Land and  
Water Regional Plan  
(PCLWRP)

**TO BE HEARD BY**

Canterbury Regional  
Council

**HEARING DATE**

27 March 2013

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**Statement of Evidence of Gregory Philip Sneath  
on Behalf of the Fertiliser Association of New Zealand**

**27 March 2013**

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## Qualifications and Experience

1. My full name is Gregory Philip Sneath. I graduated from University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Brisbane, Australia, with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, with Honours.
2. I am currently employed as Executive Manager with The Fertiliser Association of New Zealand, (formerly: The New Zealand Fertiliser Manufacturers' Research Association). I have been with The Fertiliser Association of New Zealand for over 7 years, and have certificates of completion for both the Intermediate and Advanced courses in Sustainable Nutrient Management in New Zealand Agriculture, at Massey University.
3. Representing the Fertiliser Industry I have engaged with Regional Council staff throughout New Zealand involved in the disciplines of policy, land management and science. I have participated in stakeholder workshops, advisory groups and industry consultations in relation to nutrient management and the development of Regional Plans, including engagement within the pan sector industry groups addressing the Proposed Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan.

## Introduction

4. The Fertiliser Association of New Zealand ('FANZ' or 'the Association'), is a trade organisation representing the New Zealand manufacturers of superphosphate fertiliser. The Association has two 'member companies' – Ballance Agri-Nutrients Ltd and Ravensdown Fertiliser Co-operative Ltd. Both these companies are farmer co-operatives with some 45,000 farmer shareholders. Between them these companies supply over 98% of all fertiliser used in New Zealand.
5. The member companies have invested significantly in systems and capability to reliably estimate and document nutrient cycling on farms, with the purpose of providing sound advice and recommendations for nutrient management to support viable economic production and environmental responsibility. The systems and procedures used are applied in the same way nationally, but recommendations are specific to farmer goals, industry targets and regional council regulation. National and in particular regional consistency in the approach and framework for nutrient management is highly desirable.
6. The Fertiliser Association takes a particular interest in regional policy statements and regional plans in terms of supporting provisions that enable the sustainable management of natural and physical resources, and ensuring any regulation of land use activities that may use fertilisers is appropriate and necessary.
7. The evidence presented today provides an industry perspective within the Hearing Group 1 subject matter addressing concerns raised in the original submission.

8. The Fertiliser Association has engaged expert planning evidence for more detailed analysis of key matters listed below. I direct the Commissioners to the expert evidence presented on behalf of the Association by Christopher Hansen (Director and Senior Planning Consultant, Chris Hansen Consultants Ltd.)

## **Key Matters**

9. Key matter of concern within Hearing Group 1 remains with regard to the proposed plans approach to:
- Manage resources while at the same time providing for economic growth and development;
  - Ensuring Objectives reflect the intent of the RMA as well as providing guidance on how to manage resources to levels expected by the community;
  - Ensuring Policies that implement the Objectives are well written and represent good resource management practice;
  - Defining terms and standards better to provide clarity and certainty to plan provisions;
  - Ensuring activity status assigned a particular activities are appropriate;
  - Ensuring provisions relating to the storage and handling of hazardous substances are not overly restrictive.

## **Concluding Statement**

10. Thank you for the opportunity to present to the Hearing Panel today. I am available to answer any technical questions that may arise from Mr Hansen's expert planning evidence.

END



Greg Sneath

The Fertiliser Association of New Zealand

27 March 2012

