

Tabled at Hearing 08/05/2018

The proposed Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan

INTRODUCTION

Submission No. 44 Maungatahi Farm Ltd.

My name is Richard Forbes. Our family farm extends for over 4 kilometres on the north bank of the Waipara River and currently produces sheep cattle and specialist crop.

I have lived here for 67 years and farmed this land for 45 years. I have observed the Waipara River for a considerable time. We have been affected by its extreme natural flow variations, its huge floods and very low flows.

Our family land beside the river has been irrigated from the Waipara River for nearly 60 years.

1. MAP A-037 Oppose the springfed – plains classification of the gully (in purple) shown in the Red Zone. On the map, lower left, from Bain Rd to the Waipara River.

This gully has never been springfed now or in the past. It has very occasional rain flow in parts like surrounding hillfed gullies.

Remedy – Identify as Hillfed-Lower (in green).

2. Rule 5.29(3) “No more than one pit is constructed or used per site per annum.”

Oppose. Larger areas of land or greater numbers of livestock require more than one offal pit. Distance, terrain and practical considerations require dead animals to be collected and dumped efficiently and safely as soon as reasonably possible. Having more than one offal hole on our farm does not affect the number of dead animals needing to be safely disposed of.

3. Rule 5.35 to 5.36 and definition P2-14

Oppose because of the definition of stock holding area. “Is used for confining livestock for more than 30 days in any 12 month period” etc.

Our present sheep and cattle yards are used far in excess of 30 days per year.

This proposal is impractical as there is no alternative to handle stock outside these yards.

We propose this plan excludes sheep and cattle yards which are used for less than 120 days per year.

4. Rules 5.42 to 5.45 “changed” P2-5

Oppose, obviously the Nitrogen loss to 30 June 2013 is an estimate for a future date. It is unknown.

In respect of the definition “changed”. An increase of 10% in Nitrogen loss as in 2.P2page 5
Our farm is subject to great natural climate variability. We need to adapt quickly to these changes to continue farming. In addition, the very nature of farming and its practices is a constantly evolving process accelerated by new technology and a myriad of external forces including weather, over which we have no control.

A 10% increase in Nitrogen loss is likely to largely be the result of these and other factors which we are unlikely to be able to control or effectively mitigate.

We propose the definition of “changed”, is altered to apply only, if the Nitrogen loss is greater than 20K/ha per year averaged over the whole property.

5. Policies 4.2 and 4.34, Rules 5.42, 5.45, 5.46, 5.49 – 5.50-5.51. Nutrient Zone Map P4-8 Waipara Catchment.

Oppose. The science sets a standard for Periphyton that at times is exceeded naturally in the Waipara Catchment.

My observation is of the Waipara River over a period of 60 years.

Periphyton has always been present during summer low flows in the Waipara River.

60 years ago there was effectively no irrigation from the river and no artificial fertilizer applied to the land, yet Periphyton presence appeared then as it appears today during summer months of low flows.

I well remember as a 6 year old at the Waipara School being taken to the Waipara River for swimming lessons. We would have races over the slippery boulders in the stream and swim in green Periphyton covered natural water holes. These conditions are unchanged even today with the uptake of irrigation from the river and fertilizer use throughout the catchment.

It has been explained to me over the years that the high levels of natural phosphate and other minerals in the hills which surround the Waipara River contribute significantly to the natural build up of Periphyton in the river.

I have often visited the site of “The Limestone Glacier” beside the Three Deans hills range. It is a marvel to see. A huge slip approximately 1.7km long and over 700m in width tipping directly into the Waipara River beside the Claremont property.

The slip is made up of a soft limestone material with a high concentration of phosphate. At its tongue it resembles a large number of tip truck loads of a very fine, soft limestone, dumped directly into the path of the Waipara River.

This material is being constantly delivered into the river, as it has been, long before man arrived in New Zealand and is projected to be continually added to the Waipara River water for possibly thousands of years.

It is well worth a visit by the Commissioners at this Hearing, to vividly illustrate the point that, unaided by man, minerals of many kinds which provide ideal Periphyton growth are naturally leached into the Waipara River.

Remedy. Delay the enforcement of any rules for managing nutrient discharges to the Waipara River until the Hurunui/Waiau Zone Committee has fully considered the Waipara Catchment and reported its findings and recommendations.

6. Rule 5.125 4(a) "Extraction of gravel, in the bed of any river does not exceed 5m³ in any 12 consecutive months." Oppose.

In our experience gravel use /extraction varies between years depending on need.

5m³ of gravel per year will not cover safety issues concerning, drives, tracks, gateways, slopes, stockyards and surrounding stock water troughs.

As we have a long river boundary and disused riverbeds within our farm it is more practical, efficient and cost effective to do the job ourselves when needed with tractor and trailer.

We seek an increase in the volume permitted to 50m³ per year, being a practical and realistic amount.

7. Rules 5.52 to 5.54 and Rules 5.133, 5.137. Oppose both in part.

The terms "river" and "wetland" are uncertain as to size.

Define "river" as a flowing body of water over 1 metre in width.

Define "wetland" as 0.5 hectares or greater in size.

8. Rule 5.162. Oppose

Currently some farming operations with contractors on site use/store greater volumes of petrol and diesel than the proposed 2000 litres at any one time.

For practical purposes we seek the volume be amended to 5000 litres.