

Tabled at Hearing 07/05/2013

BEFORE THE

Canterbury Regional Council

IN THE MATTER OF

the Resource Management Act
1991 and the Environment
Canterbury (Temporary
Commissioners and Improved
Water Management) Act 2010

AND

IN THE MATTER OF

the hearing of submissions on
the Proposed Canterbury Land
and Water Regional Plan

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE ON BEHALF OF PARTIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE
CANTERBURY PRIMARY SECTOR POLICY GROUP**

Dated 7 May 2013

Introduction

1. My name is Lionel John Hume. I am a Senior Policy Advisor, employed by Federated Farmers, based in Ashburton.
2. I hold B.Ag.Sc and M.Sc. (First Class Hons) degrees from Massey University and a Ph.D. (Plant Science) from Lincoln University. I am a member of the NZ Institute of Agricultural Science, the NZ Society of Soil Science and the Agronomy Society of NZ.
3. I previously worked as a scientist for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in the area of plant nutrition/soil fertility. Currently I am a member of Federated Farmers' Regional Policy team and have eight years experience of working with regional water planning processes, including: the Natural Resources Regional Plan process (from submission through to resolution of High Court appeals); development of the Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations 2010 and membership of the implementation taskforce for those regulations; the development of catchment-based flow and allocation plans for several Canterbury catchments; the development of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy; and, recently, the Regional Policy Statement and Land and Water Regional Plan processes. I am a board member of Irrigation New Zealand.
4. With me is Christopher John Allen. Chris is President of the Mid Canterbury Province of Federated Farmers of New Zealand. He owns and manages a 360 ha mixed sheep, beef, arable and broad-acre horticulture property adjacent to the Ashburton River in Mid Canterbury. The property has on-farm water storage and is fully spray-irrigated, using both ground and surface water.
5. Chris assisted in setting up and is an active member of the Ashburton River Water User Group, whose function is to equitably manage the available water and to ensure that the river remains above its minimum flow for as long as possible. He also represents land holders on the Ashburton River Liaison Group, which deals with Environment Canterbury on flood control works in the Ashburton River and tributaries.
6. Chris has had involvement, at a governance level in a range of regional planning issues, particularly to do with water management. He has chaired the Canterbury Primary Sector Policy Group since its inception.

Canterbury Primary Sector Policy Group

7. The issues addressed in the Proposed Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) are of vital importance to the entire primary production sector, and to the economic and social wellbeing of local communities and the wider region. Although the interests of the various primary sector groups do not always precisely coincide, there is large measure of agreement on many of the key issues to do with the management of water quantity and water quality.
8. In order to assist the commissioners to understand and take on board the needs and views of the primary sector, Federated Farmers convened a series of primary sector group meetings, beginning in May 2012 and continuing through this hearing process, to form and consolidate common positions on some of the key LWRP issues. These are reflected in the individual submissions of primary sector groups and in a collective approach to the presentation of expert evidence at these hearings. Members of the group who have made individual submissions on the LWRP are:
- Bank of New Zealand Limited
 - Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation Limited
 - Beef + Lamb New Zealand
 - Canterbury Pastoral Limited
 - Dairy Holdings Limited
 - DairyNZ
 - Deer Industry New Zealand
 - Federated Farmers of New Zealand, Combined Canterbury Provinces
 - Fertiliser Association of New Zealand
 - Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited
 - Horticulture New Zealand
 - Irrigation New Zealand
 - New Zealand Pork Industry Board


- Rangitata Diversion Race Management Limited
- Silver Fern Farms Limited
- Synlait Farms Limited
- Synlait Milk Limited
- Waitaki Irrigators Collective Limited
- Westland Co-operative Dairy Company Limited

The parties are collectively referred to as the Canterbury Primary Sector Policy Group (CPSPG).

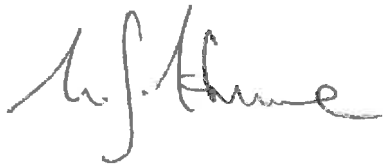
9. The Group wishes to present a comprehensive and focused approach to the hearing process, which avoids unnecessary repetition, particularly by expert witnesses. To that end, members of the Group collectively commissioned the expert water quantity evidence, submitted on 4 February and presented by Peter Callander, Ian McIndoe and Andrew Curtis.
10. The evidence statements of Dr Roberts and Dr Edmeades, to be presented shortly, are presented in the names of individual CPSPG members. However, the evidence has been circulated to the wider group, because the use and application of Overseer within the proposed plan framework will impact on most farm enterprises. The wider Group has read the evidence statements and supports them.
11. Dr Roberts will describe Overseer, how it works and what it does. He will also state what its limitations are, particularly for regulatory compliance purposes, and outline areas where improvement is needed. Dr Edmeades will discuss the errors associated with Overseer and issues surrounding its use in the LWRP. He will give examples to illustrate the impacts of the proposed LWRP, and its use of Overseer, on specific farms.
12. Following presentation of the expert evidence, those CPSPG members appearing before the commissioners intend, during the separate times reserved for their appearances, to use the expert evidence presented by Dr Roberts and Dr Edmeades. Further evaluative evidence may be presented by individual CPSPG members, which will focus on particular issues of importance to those members.

13. Representatives from Ngai Tahu have been actively engaged in CPSPG discussions. This has enabled us to appreciate their concerns and build them into our thinking on LWRP issues. Although we have many areas of mutual interest and shared viewpoints, Ngai Tahu is not formally part of the joint CPSPG approach to these hearings.

On behalf of the parties which make up the Canterbury Primary Sector Policy Group, we thank you for the opportunity to present these submissions.



Chris Allen
Mid Canterbury President
Federated Farmers of New Zealand



Lionel Hume
Senior Policy Advisor
Federated Farmers of New Zealand

