

Janel Hau

From: Martin Bruce <mabruce@xtra.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 21 March 2014 4:46 p.m.
To: Mailroom Mailbox
Subject: TRIM: Submission - Notification of Variation 1
Attachments: 0436_001.pdf

Categories: Purple Category
HP TRIM Record Number: C14C/44148

Good afternoon
Attached please find my submission on Notification of Variation 1
Many thanks
Martin Bruce

Ph 03 3180778

From: mabruce@xtra.co.nz
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 3:45 PM
To: [M A Bruce](#)
Subject: Attached Image



Submission on Proposed Variation 1 to the Proposed Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Submitter ID:

File No:

Form 5: Submissions on a Publicly Notified Proposed Policy Statement or Regional Plan under Clause 6 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991

Return your signed submission by 5.00pm Friday 21 March 2014 to:

Freepost 1201 Variation 1 to pLWRP
Environment Canterbury
P O Box 345
Christchurch 8140

Full Name: Martin Andrew Bruce

Phone (Hm): 033180778

Organisation*: _____

Phone (Wk): 033180778

* the organisation that this submission is made on behalf of

Postal Address: 133 Leaches Rd

Phone (Cell): 0274326658

Hororata

Postcode: 7572

Email: mabruce@xtra.co.nz

Fax: 03 3180772

Contact name and postal address for service of person making submission (if different from above):

Trade Competition

Pursuant to Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, a person who could gain an advantage in trade competition through the submission may make a submission only if directly affected by an effect of the proposed policy statement or plan that:

- a) adversely affects the environment; and
- b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

Please tick the sentence that applies to you:

- ☐ I could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission; or
- ☐ I could gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

If you have ticked this box please select one of the following:

- ☐ I am directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission
- ☐ I am not directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission

Signature: _____

Date: _____

(Signature of person making submission or person authorised to sign on behalf of person making the submission)

Please note:

(1) all information contained in a submission under the Resource Management Act 1991, including names and addresses for service, becomes public information.

- ☐ I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission; or
- ☒ I do wish to be heard in support of my submission; and if so,
- ☐ I would be prepared to consider presenting your submission in a joint case with others making a similar submission at any hearing

mab

Martin Bruce – Farmer and Agricultural Contractor

Based in Hororata, I employ up to 30 staff and grew up in the district.

Comments on ECan Info Sheet re variation 1 which seem to convey Ecan's philosophy and what we as rate payers have to put up with and suffer the consequences of: (refer to Document 1, 2 and 3 for the following points)

- 1) From what I understand stakeholders feel the variation is not what was agreed to "community goals".
- 2) "Farmers draw on an abundant supply of groundwater during dry summers" – (Ecan's words).
I have seen Canterbury go from hardly any irrigation to how it is now, and have contact with customers from the coast to the foothills. I have seen dry streams 30 years ago and had farmers say that this spring they have seen water coming out of the ground where they haven't seen it or 30 years.
From I what I have seen the resource is not over allocated.
- 3) "viable land based economy and prosperous communities"
The only prosperous people out of this will be consultants and lawyers and Ecan with all their charges, consent fees and monitoring.
Myself and my customers are very concerned about the financial costs. When they put info into the overseer program, they see their farms as not being economic.
See article Straight Furrow, March 4 re Lincoln – costing \$260/hectare.
- 4) Nitrogen limits - science and Ecan's assumptions don't seem to meet.
- 5) Water Allocation – don't agree with reducing volumes, in Ecan's words there is abundant water in a dry year.
- 6) New irrigation from stored water is good, but once again it has been very hard to get consents – cost millions and years.
- 7) "Environment Plans" – "Cost" compliance fees, consultants!!!
Making farming too hard.
- 8) "Agriculture needs to make significant contributions to reducing nitrogen load".

What about Christchurch – Avon four times over the ecoli limit. What about Ecan and Selwyn District Council allowing raw sewerage and waste into a pit on the corner of Ardlui and Derretts Roads at Hororata. I can't see how the whole of Canterbury needs to be under same limits. Te Pirita water @ 200 metres surely is different to Southbridge water at 10 metres.

MAB

Why should industry have to come up with science to disprove Ecan theory and oversee programme – reducing nitrogen is not going to help lakes and streams in all areas because there are no streams and water is deep. Natural habitat has nitrogen going into streams e.g. – birds effluent in lake and matagouri.

- 9) Regional GDP 300 million higher – may be true but the current irrigators are going to lose millions by having restrictions on their farm and Ecan costs. I can see my business turnover dropping by approximately one million as I am dairy grazing, spreading urea and making supplements on dairy farms.
- 10) In one breath Ecan are talking about abundant resources and the other with every move are trying to take back 50% of consents with no science to back it – why?

Re Article from Ravensdown (Document 3):

“3500 – 4000 farms designated part or all of their farm in a red zone”.

The economic implications of this are huge. Farmers are not going to take losing their farms value and profitability.

MAB

MUB

(1) The specific provisions of the Proposed Plan that my submission relates to are:		(2) My submission is that: (include whether you support or oppose the specific provisions or wish to have them amended and the reasons for your views.)		(3) I seek the following decisions from Environment Canterbury: (Please give precise details for each provision. The more specific you can be the easier it will be for the Council to understand your concerns.)
Section & Page Number	Sub-section/ Point	Oppose/support (in part or full)	Reasons	
4.13	11.5.11	oppose	compliance - base line	
" "	11.5.12	oppose	Overseer program - lack of science	
" "	11.5.14	support		
4.13	11.5.15	oppose partly	only the words "may result" typical of Ecan & no science to say it will so farmers will suffer an economic (in all places) with more compliance cost	
4.19	11.5.37	oppose 4	oppose surrendering 50%	Should be able to transfer 100%
4.27 4.28		partly support	Lot has to do with environment Rainfall, Temperature	

Add further pages as required – please initial any additional pages.

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Section & Page Number	Sub-section/ Point	Oppose/support (in part or full)	Reasons	
4.2	Selwyn Water	Zone Cammick oppose	Taking out the reason for plan	Re-instate especially economic outcome
4.3	Ellesmere	oppose	- too much emphasis on lake Ellesmere for the whole region No streams in Tapanui to flow into Lake Ellesmere	Don't Blanket the whole Red Zone with same Rules
4.6	11.4.12	oppose	15kg nitrogen needs to be variable on location & soil type	needs to be higher with scientific prove
4.6	11/4/13a	oppose	Compliance issues are getting worse - govt wants less compliance hurdles less cost	Be able to keep records not have to employ consultants
4.6	11/4/13	oppose	Science not truly tested re 15kg	Need more proof
4.7	11/4/14	oppose	Need to test science 2022 is a long way off to be making laws for when Ecan change	Need facts not theory

Add further pages as required - please initial any additional pages.

its mind so often eg Draping
CPW nitrogen limits - made
a mistake "yea wright"

MOB

MAB

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Section & Page Number	Sub-section/ Point	Oppose/support (in part or full)	Reasons	
4-7	11-4-17	oppose	It will mean owner cannot change land use	Needs to be able to go to industry average
4-8	11-4-22 a/b/c	oppose all	There is no need to be so draconian - 50% affects peoples living heads	Need to be able to transfer consents
4-8 11-4-23	11-4-23	oppose	keep consents as they are cost's money - from charges to high	Farmer may change lands & different use needs water that has been consented
4-8	11-4-26	oppose	needs to meet 10 out of 10 farmers - huge economic cost if system can't be used	if system complies needs to be able to keep water going as needed
4-12	11-5-9	oppose	Compliance costs ??? consultants - fees to Ecan	Farmers need the ability to farm to best management practices without consents
4-13	11-5-10	oppose	Compliance Cost - baseline ???	Need to let people farm to best practice

Add further pages as required - please initial any additional pages.

Variation 1 – Proposed Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan



**Environment
Canterbury**
Regional Council
Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

Information Sheet

February 2014

What is Variation 1?

Variation 1 is the first change to the proposed Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan related to a specific area (the catchment of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere). It puts in place policies and rules to help achieve the community goals for freshwater that have been set under the collaborative Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

①

How will Variation 1 change the Plan?

It replaces most of Section 11 – the Selwyn Waihora sub-regional section. It makes specific changes to Section 9 – the Christchurch–West Melton sub-regional section (these changes span across sub-regional sections 9 and 11) – which include:

- The West Melton Special Zone where special conditions are used to manage groundwater abstraction
- The management of stormwater in the Halswell catchment.

The Selwyn–Waihora catchment

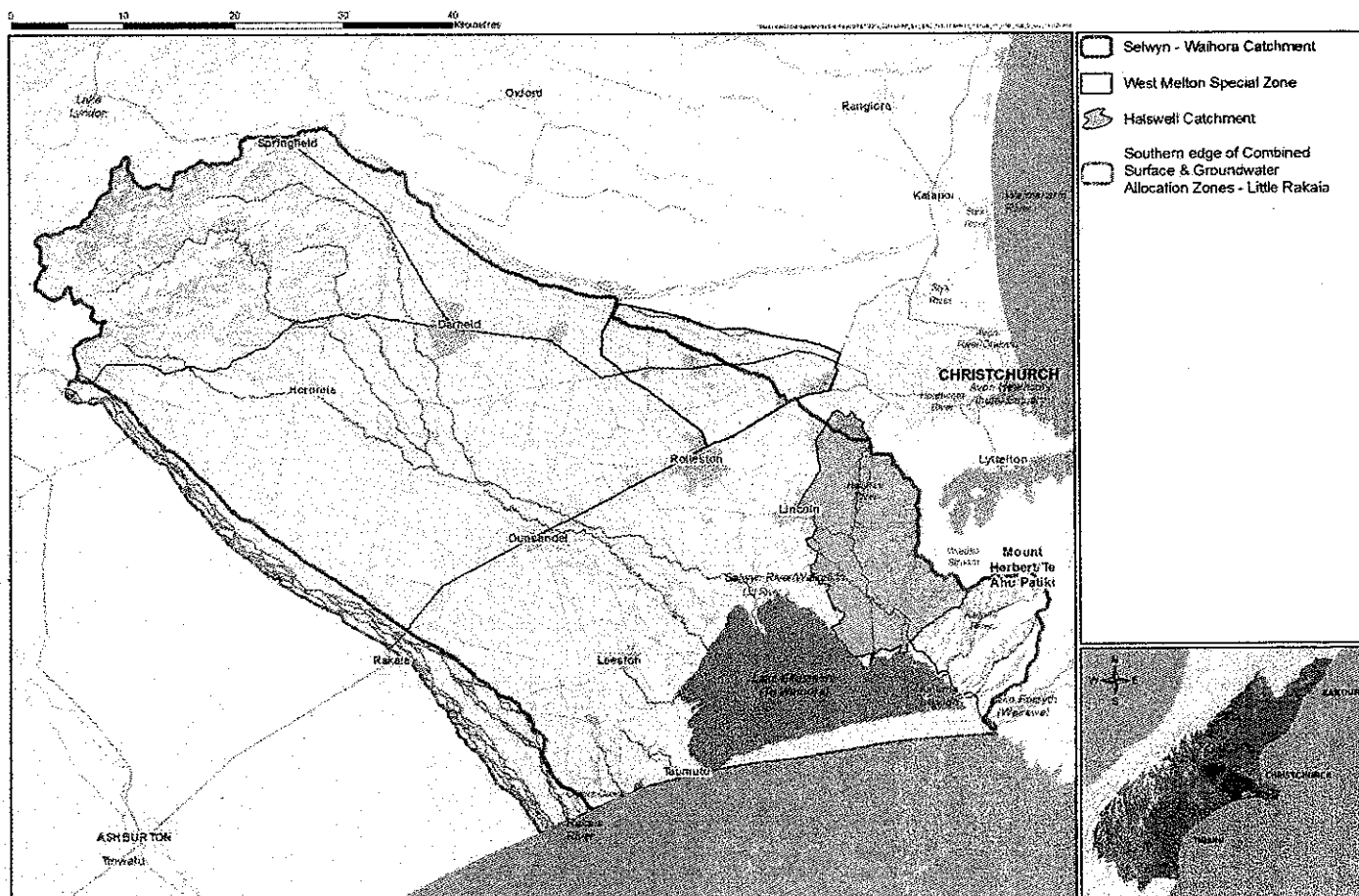
The Selwyn–Waihora catchment includes the foothills of the Waikirikiri/Selwyn River and its tributaries; the plains between the Waimakariri and Rakaia rivers (containing the Waikirikiri/Selwyn and Huritini/Halswell rivers). It also includes a number of Banks Peninsula lowland streams and waterways that flow into Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere.

The West Melton Special Zone

The West Melton Special Zone includes the West Melton, Yaldhurst and Weedons areas; and spans the boundary between the Selwyn–Waihora and Christchurch–West Melton sub-regional areas in the proposed Land and Water Regional Plan.

Halswell River/Huritini catchment

This includes land within the surface water catchment for the Halswell River.



Variation 1 area and the catchment of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere

Everything is connected

MaB

Key land and water issues in the Selwyn-Waihora catchment

Te Waihora, its margins and associated wetlands are of outstanding cultural significance for Ngāi Tahu. The lake is recognised as a tribal taonga, reflecting the importance of the lake to Ngāi Tahu culture, history and identity. The lake supports tuna (eel) and pātiki (flounder) fisheries and lies within a rich agricultural area which has been farmed for more than 150 years.

Te Waihora is enriched with nitrogen and phosphorus, is subject to algal blooms, and the health of the lake has deteriorated.

Farmers draw on the abundant supply of groundwater during the dry summers, but this has depleted stream flows to the Selwyn River and lowland streams. As a result, the water resource is over-allocated.

Water from alpine rivers via the consented Central Plains Water irrigation scheme would enable improved stream flows while meeting the demand for irrigation water. However, more irrigation will increase the nitrogen load to groundwater and to the lake.

The Canterbury Water Management Strategy and Variation 1

Variation 1 introduces a package of actions recommended by the Selwyn Waihora zone committee which, over the past two years, has tackled the issues in the catchment through collaboration with Ngāi Tahu, landowners, community members and numerous stakeholders.

The committee's vision for the catchment is to restore the mauri of Te Waihora while maintaining a viable land-based economy and prosperous communities.

Its package of recommended actions included water quality and quantity limits, mechanisms to address over-allocation of water resources and a range of complementary non-regulatory actions.

The Selwyn-Waihora zone committee was set up as part of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and operates as a joint committee of Environment Canterbury, the Selwyn District Council and the Christchurch City Council. Its recommendations were adopted by Environment Canterbury, the Selwyn District Council and the Christchurch City Council in October/November 2013.

Zone Committee package of actions

GOALS

A healthy Te Waihora

Kaitiakitanga recognised

Quality drinking water

Biodiversity enhanced

Healthy lowland streams

Healthy hill-fed streams

Thriving communities and sustainable economies

PATHWAYS

Lake rehabilitation:

- Lake-level and opening management
- 50% reduction in lake-bed legacy phosphorus
- Restore macrophyte beds
- Lake-margin and floating wetlands

Farming at significantly better than good management practice (GMP):

- Agricultural nitrogen limits
- Reduce catchment phosphorus load by 50%

Water allocation to deliver ecological and cultural flows:

- New takes prohibited
- Allocated volumes reduced
- Water transfers restricted

Use water from alpine rivers for:

- New irrigation
- Replacing groundwater takes
- Augmenting lowland stream flows

Manage catchment recognising its cultural importance to Ngāi Tahu

MaB

Key features of Variation 1

Te Waihora as a Ngāi Tahu cultural landscape

An area encompassing the lake, its margins and tributaries, is recognised as a Cultural Landscape/Value Management Area.

This reflects the significance and concentration of mahinga kai, wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga sites, and the values associated with the lake.

Consenting of certain activities within the Cultural Landscape/Value Management Area will need to consider any adverse impact on mahinga kai, wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga sites.

Farm Environment Plans will need to be completed by mid-2015 for all properties larger than 10 hectares within the Cultural Landscape/Value Management Area.

Reducing the nitrogen load

Agriculture needs to make a significant contribution to reducing the nitrogen load entering Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere. This starts with farmers operating at good management practice for all activities, additional rules will apply from 2017 depending on nitrogen leaching rates:

- For nitrogen loss >15 kg N/ha/year, farmers will need to achieve good management practice nitrogen loss rates for their existing (2009-13) land use.

- For nitrogen loss <15 kg N/ha/year, land use can change provided farmers operate at good management practice and loss rates do not increase above 15 kg N/ha/year.

From 2022: all farms with losses of more than 15 kg N/ha/year will need to further reduce nitrogen losses (ranging from 30% for dairy to 7% for arable).

The Central Plains Water scheme is already consented, but will move to an overall nitrogen load limit that requires new irrigated land to operate at the 2022 nitrogen loss rates immediately. Community sewage and industrial processes are also required to meet a nitrogen load limit.

Farm Environment Plans: reducing phosphorus, sediment and microbial contaminants

Farm Environment Plans will over time be required for all farms of 20 hectares or more (10 hectares within the cultural landscape area).

Farm Environment Plans cover: irrigation efficiency, nutrient use, soil management, wetland and riparian development, biodiversity, collected animal effluent, stock exclusion from waterways, as well as cultural management.

Farm Environment Plan key dates:

- By mid-2015: for properties within the lake area of the Cultural Landscape/Value Management Area.
- From 2017: for properties greater than 50ha or with nitrogen losses >15 kg N/ha/year.
- From 2022: for properties greater than 20 hectares.

Water allocation, takes and transfers

Allocation zone boundaries are altered. Surface water and groundwater will be managed as one resource across most of the catchment. Revised allocation limits are set to sustain improved ecological flows in the Selwyn River/Waikirikirri and springfed streams in all but the very driest of years. New takes in excess of the allocation limits are prohibited.

A significant reduction in existing allocation will be needed to meet the revised allocation limits within the Rakaia-Selwyn and Selwyn-Waimakariri allocation zones. Allocation will be reduced by using records of actual use and updating annual volumes as consents are renewed.

It is vital that groundwater takes are reduced in the upper plains to allow stream flows to improve. For this reason, Central Plains Water shareholders are prohibited from transferring their (no longer required) consents to avoid the risk that groundwater is abstracted in another location. The transfer of groundwater from below SH1 to above SH1 is prohibited, and 50% of any transferred water must be surrendered in over-allocated zones (to stop allocated but unused water from being used).

New minimum flows are introduced to protect ecological and cultural values in the rivers and streams once the water balance is restored and flows have improved. These will be applied to consents on renewal from 2025.

West Melton Special Zone

Within the West Melton Special Zone, restrictions will continue to be applied to resource consents to take groundwater when groundwater levels are low, to protect domestic supply, stockwater and community drinking water supplies.

Halswell River/Huritini Catchment

Within the Halswell catchment, resource consent is required for the discharge of stormwater where it has not been authorised by a consented stormwater management plan from 5 December 2013.

WHAT IT WILL LOOK LIKE

- Water quality improved
- Tuna and Pātiki fisheries increased
- Clearer water on lake margins
- Risk of algal blooms reduced
- Average nitrate levels of 8.5mg/l in untreated drinking wells
- Nitrate toxicity guidelines met in lowland streams
- Stock out of streams and drains
- Effective riparian margins on 850km of streams; 1000km of drains
- More native vegetation beside streams
- Springhead wetlands protected
- Stream and river flows up 15-20%
- Water storage prohibited in mainstems of Selwyn/Waikirikirri and Waiāniwaniwa
- Regional GDP \$300 million higher with 30,000 ha new irrigation
- Farm viability maintained
- Takes from Waikewai Stream prohibited
- Cultural landscape areas protect wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and mahinga kai

maB

Ravensdown helps Canterbury farmers adapt to nitrogen caps

25 February 2014 -

As ECan's Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) becomes law, the main focus for farmer owned co-operative Ravensdown continues to be how the plan addresses nitrogen losses and fertiliser application for its Canterbury shareholders.

Ravensdown has a trained team of environmental consultants who are already helping Canterbury farmers come to terms with the new regulations and develop Farm Environment Plans. Our field-based team is well trained in using the industry's OVERSEER nutrient modelling tool to create nutrient budgets.

ECan's plan provides a regulatory framework to meet the community's goals under the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and seeks to address the complex issues around the sustainable use of land and water.

While there are several zones to which different rules apply depending on water quality, there are some rules that span all zones:

- Farms less than five hectares are permitted activities so a resource consent is not required.
- Farms leaching less than 10kg of nitrogen per hectare per year and not in a lake zone are also permitted activities.
- If a farm is irrigated with water from an irrigation scheme (which holds a discharge permit) the farming activity is regulated by the conditions of that permit.
- All farms' nitrogen leaching losses will be benchmarked against a nitrogen baseline, which is the average loss from the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2013.
- The ongoing nitrogen loss calculation is a rolling average over the most recent four-year period, spanning 1 July to 30 June. This average will be compared against the nitrogen baseline to determine whether the activity is permitted, requires a resource consent, or is prohibited.

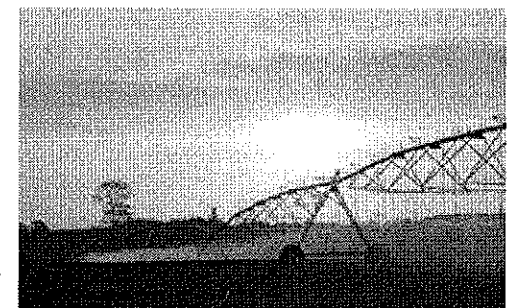
For designated "red" zones, ECan has introduced an effective nitrogen cap, which means that there is to be no increase in nitrogen losses above the nitrogen baseline. ECan estimate there to be between 3,500 - 4,000 farms designated as having part or all of their farm in a red zone. Farming activities that cause the nitrogen loss to exceed the benchmark are deemed to be a prohibited activity and a resource consent will not be granted under any circumstances.

Farming activities that leach between 10 and 20 kg N per hectare per year can continue as a permitted activity, providing their nitrogen loss calculation does not increase above the nitrogen baseline.

Farming activities with nitrogen losses above 20 kg N per hectare can continue as a permitted activity up until 1 January 2017, providing their nitrogen loss calculation does not increase above the nitrogen baseline. After this a resource consent will be needed as well as a Farm Environment Plan.

Any farming activity that triggers the nutrient management rules and requires resource consent needs a farm environment plan (FEP). A farm environment plan is a nutrient management planning tool that aims to optimise production while reducing nutrient losses to the receiving environment. The FEP is specific to your property, will account for all nutrient inputs and outputs within the farm system, address any adverse environmental effects and risks and identify mitigation strategies.

Shaun Berkett is Environmental Specialist at Ravensdown



Nitrogen reduction affecting costs

By TONY BENNY
(AND TIM CRONSHAW)

LINCOLN University Dairy Farm's decision two years ago to cut back the use of nitrogen fertiliser to reduce the farm's environmental footprint, combined with no longer being able to use EcoN, is hitting the bottom line, says farm manager Peter Hancox.

"We've used a lot more silage this year because we've cut the use of nitrogen back – that's had an impact on our budget this year. We think that's probably costing us \$260/ha more, using silage so that's a cost for the farm," Mr Hancox told 280 farmers at LUDF's focus day.

Some difficult and possibly costly decisions are coming up fast for the farm managers as they navigate around the self-imposed nitrogen target.

The options they take could help provide a blueprint for dairy farmers running a profitable and environmentally sound business in the future.

Milk production is running close to last season's levels and whether this can be continued while maintaining a nitrogen target and restricting losses into water will depend on the decisions made by the farm's managers.



Agresearch scientist Samuel Dennis: Applying different rates of nitrogen to assess the effect on pasture growth.

DairyNZ developer Steve Lee, part of the farm's management team, said budgeted N on the farm has been dropped from 350kg to 260kg for the season.

"What we want to tell the story of and discuss is what that's meant in terms of running the farm and the outcome that we can expect to date and by the end of the season," said Mr Lee.

"The guts of it is that we've followed the cows, we've used smaller applications. In the past we may have used some of 40kg, that's gone back to 25 but the number of applications is much the same."

Agresearch scientist Samuel Dennis has yield mapped much of the farm and in one paddock is applying different rates of N to

assess the effect on pasture growth. Like the rest of the farm, the overall rate is 25kg/ha but in areas that historically have had lower yields, up to 50kg/ha has been applied while on better yielding area, rates as low as 12.5kg or even nothing have been tried.

"Overall, all of them responded pretty well up to 25kg of N per hectare. Above that the response is variable – I wouldn't be putting money on the idea that I'd make more money by putting on more nitrogen than 25; the data isn't consistent enough," he said.

But Mr Dennis said climatic factors may be affecting the results with below average soil temperatures experienced this summer. "We may be able to get better growth from higher rates of nitrogen but to date from this short study this summer, there's no reason apply more than 25kg on the areas that we looked at."

South Island Dairying Development Centre executive director Ron Pellow said the managers wanted to farm within the target while maintaining maximum profitability, cow health and business viability.

"We are about to evaluate how we best mix the options of when we dry off the cows, how much feed should be brought in and the stocking rate. We can either run all cows to the end of the season or

start drying some cows from now on and that has a significant impact on milk production and nitrogen loss."

Capping milk production could cost the farm \$200,000 in lost revenue during a high payout year of about \$8 a kilogram of milk solids as experienced this season.

Buying in silage instead of using more nitrogen to grow grass on the farm does reduce the environmental footprint as assessed by Overseer, Mr Pellow said, but that may have a cost elsewhere.

"What Overseer doesn't address is at the catchment level. Where is that feed coming from and what is the footprint of the land where that feed is grown? For this milking platform, we can make the footprint look a lot better if we buy in a lot more feed and grow less on the platform but at the catchment level, have we achieved the benefit that we want?"

The direction the farm took would give farmers some idea of the implications of working with nitrogen loss targets and working within limits set by the Land and Water Plan, he said.

The plan was notified last month and requires farmers to operate within nitrogen losses from 2009-13. This is a holding pattern until zone committees set wider targets for local catchments.