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Submission to Ecan on Stock Exclusion from Waterways, requesting an amendment to Environment Canterbury Regional Rule 5.68 of the Land and Water Regional Plan, via Proposed Variation I to the Plan. This submission is relating to paragraph 11.5.18 of Variation I.

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My submission is in opposition to this provision.

My reasons for opposing this specific provision are:

In foothills country we need a mixture of cattle and sheep to keep well knitted together the vegetation, otherwise it gets to be too rank and unpalatable for sheep and ends up growing broom, gorse, barberry, etc as it has in much of the DOC country.

Troughs always end up with a large patch of bare ground where stock congregate and in foothills country this leads to erosion.

Apart from the cost many of the small creeks in the foothills country are in the bushland gullies. To put a fence through this will destroy precious shade and ecosystems, weeds or erosion will take the place of the trees where it needs bulldozed fence lines where that can be done at all.

A few beef cattle to keep a balance in the pasture quality ~~at~~ along with the sheep is not anything similar to running the highly stocked plains for dairying.

In practical terms this proposal is about as ridiculous as the old survey maps for hill country farms where someone sat in an office and drew a straight line on a piece of paper.

In hill country if stock can go to a creek along the way, have a drink and get on with grazing, its better for them, and for the environment than forcing them to congregate at a particular bit. (eg trough with bare earth pugged up at the gathering site.)

Snow which happens most winters in the foothills will mean having to renew or repair large amounts every year.

Some years there will be flooding of creeks and this damages fences

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Tracks for any stock be it cattle, sheep, deer, or wild pigs would soon become deeply gouged and the edges vulnerable to erosion and unhealthy pug when animals are forced to use limited access to drinking water.

On a typical 600-1000 hectare foothills farm the cost for initial fencing would be about \$17 a metre (\$34 per metre for 2 sides)

Flooding would wash away or displace water pipes

Date: 21/3/2014

I seek the following decisions from Environment Canterbury

1 Amend Ecan Canterbury LWRP Regional Rule 5.68.3 Clause a) to read as follows:

CONSPICUOUS pugging or de-vegetation that exposes CLEARLY VISIBLE bare earth in the bed of a lake or river

2, Retain Ecan Canterbury Regional Rule 5.68.3 Clause B)

3 Delete Ecan Canterbury LWRP Regional rule 5.68.3 Clause C

I do not wish to be heard on this submission

Christina Mary McArthur