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 1 to the Plan. This submission is relating to paragraph 11.5.18 of Variation 1

Submitter: Archibald Graeme McArthur of 550 Whitecliffs Rd, RD 1, Coalgate Phone: (03) 3182734

My submission is in OPPOSITION to this provision

I seek the following decisions from Environment Canterbury:

1. Amend Environment 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 Environment Canterbury LWRP Regional Rule 5.68.3 Clause b)

3. Delete Environment Canterbury LWRP Regional Rule 5.68.3 Clause c)

I wish to be heard on this Submission
Reasons for the amendments I am seeking:

Ground contour in the vicinity of many creeks would necessitate heavy earth movement to enable a fence to be built. Both sides of each creek would have to be fenced. Steep sildings would push the fence line back many meters to prevent out fill from falling directly into the waterway.

On parts of this property I estimate that some 2ha/km of waterway of fresh new soil would be exposed to extreme erosion and invasion of weed species as well as being lost to grazing.

Cost of fencing. A professional fencers quote for this property is $11/meter – over 12 km, $128,000 on 86 HA. Application of this rule would render the grazing of thousands of hectares of hill country farms economically untenable.

At normal stocking rates animals would access drinking water at many points along a waterway which minimises local disturbance of soil and vegetation. Piped off water to troughs would further increase costs. Keeping intakes clear would be a constant problem and disturbance of soil and vegetation around troughs could be extreme.

Deeply worn and highly erodable tracks made by the stock would soon converge on the trough sites, thereby gathering water from a wide area onto a much trampled site.

To remove cattle from the stocking mix on hill country would lead to a rapid deterioration of the pasture to a point where sheep would not graze that feed and complete destocking would inevitably follow.

Archibald Graeme McArthur
A.G. McArthur

21-3-2014