

Submission on Proposed Waipara Catchment  
Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan



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\* the organisation that this submission is made on behalf of: EC

FILE REF: <u>PLAN-WAIP-19-6</u>	ACTION	INFO
DOCUMENT No.: <u>78345</u>		
<u>11 JUN 2010</u>		

Signature: B. Harris B. Harris  
 (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.

Form 5: Submissions on a Publicly Notified Proposed Policy Statement or Regional Plan under Clause 6 of Schedule 7 of the Resource Management Act 1991

- Tick this box if you do not wish to be heard in support of your submission;
- Tick this box if you do wish to be heard in support of your submission; and,
- Tick this box if you would be prepared to consider presenting your submission in a joint case with others making a similar submission at any hearing.

Return your signed submission by Monday 14th June 2010 to:

Freepost 1201  
 Proposed Waipara Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan  
 Environment Canterbury  
 P O Box 345  
 Christchurch  
 Email: [mailroom@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:mailroom@ecan.govt.nz)

(1) The specific provisions of the variation that my submission relates to are: (Specify page number and subsection numbering for each separate provision).

Information Attached

(2) My submission is that: (State concisely: the nature of your submission, and clearly indicate whether you support or oppose each separate provision being submitted on, or wish to have amendments made, giving reasons.)

Information Attached

(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.)

Information attached

**Submission on Proposed Waipara Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan.**

1. The specific provisions of the Proposed Regional Plan that our submission relates to:

**That in Objectives 3 the social and economic benefits of groundwater abstractions from the Waipara River catchment are recognised and provided for.**

**Rule 6 – the taking and use of groundwater from the Waipara Groundwater Zone for existing groundwater users should be provided for and not made unreasonably difficult to obtain.**

2. Our submissions are:

We have farmed this land since the early 1960's and know the importance of having a groundwater supply to our farm. When the original farm well was due to be replaced a few years ago, we were told by Environment Canterbury staff that to maintain our supply, a resource consent would sooner or later be required and that consent may be difficult to obtain due to the over-allocation of groundwater in the Waipara area. This was a worry given the long time that our property had been serviced by the existing well, and while the amount of water the well was able to provide was not alot, we were concerned that our son and daughter-in-law would not be able to continue taking water to support a vineyard that they had worked so very hard to develop. (As it turned out, an existing use permit was obtained in the middle of last year and as a result a resource consent under the Canterbury Regional Plan could have been applied for as a restricted discretionary activity under Rule WQN19).

We don't want it to be more difficult than it needs be to maintain a groundwater supply, and we know that there are social and economic benefits of groundwater for the district that must be continued to be recognised. Groundwater is hard to find and existing wells must be protected.

With regard to the use of Waipara Township Water for farm water, we were asked to go on this supply when the Waipara township supply was first developed. This lasted until the first bill came through. Thinking about it, while we wanted to help out the Council in creating demand, it is such a waste of good drinking water when our well could supply the farm requirements perfectly well. Also in times when there were restrictions on the use of the Waipara Township Water, it would have been impossible to rely on this water for the farm.

3. We seek the following decisions from Environment Canterbury:

**Recognise the important of maintaining existing groundwater wells in the policies and rules of this plan and don't make it too hard to get consents when they are required to maintain takes from existing wells. For certainty, any consents should be granted for the maximum term allowed.**