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**Subject:** further submission to Variation 3 in support of DOC  
**Date:** Friday, 17 July 2015 4:13:41 p.m.

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Tena Koe Meredith. I am sending this further submission for Anne Te Maiharoa Dodds as she is having trouble with her computer and emails.

Anne Te Maiharoa Dodds phone 03 689 3838

Waitaha Iwi

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Glenavy

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I am a person who has an interest in the proposal that is greater than the general public

I would be prepared to consider presenting my further submission in a joint case with others making a similar submission at any hearing

17/7/2015

In support of Department of Conservation submission

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Myself and whanau would like to make a further submission in support of the Department of Conservation's submission on Variation 3 of the proposed Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan. We consider we have an interest greater than the general public since the Variation will affect the Wainono Lagoon our traditional mahinga kai gathering ground. This Lagoon has been a source of recreation and mahinga kai to our people of Waitaha long before the arrival of Kati Mamoe and long before the arrival of Kai Tahu or the Early Settlers to our Island.

In our Tikanga we adhere to the principle of not mixing waters and we agree with DOC that the addition of Waitaki water to dilute the waters of Wainono does not address the fundamental cause and growing pollution from intensive farming practices. It may very well cause problems as they suggest by bringing with it glacial silt and didymo. This is not a natural flushing flow or water quality for this Lagoon.

We also note that the proposed remedial riparian plantings are not apparent in the photos accompanying DOC's submission and surely they need to be well established before they can have any beneficial effect? We therefore consider the nitrate loadings need to be reduced now until buffer zones are established and proven effective.

The proposed wetlands that are intended to clean water going into the lagoon are in our opinion an experiment and we agree with DOC it is not a substitute for reducing nitrate pollution. We feel, along with DOC, that the loading of nitrates needs to be hugely reduced if the Lagoon is to return to anything like the condition it was, even during my lifetime.

According to freshwater scientist Dr Mike Joy, it is not enough to use as targets nitrate limits based on when water is toxic to fish (Joy M, 2015). According to his research the ANZECC guideline level where nuisance algal growth is triggered is 0.61mg/l for total nitrogen. Algae growth prevents invertebrates multiplying, depletes oxygen and so the habitat for fish is severely compromised. .

The nitrate targets proposed for streams in Variation 3, are so far out of line with this recommendation, that if Variation 3 is pursued we feel there is no hope that Wainono Lagoon will live and thrive!

Although it is an unwelcome truth to the farming community the planet has already absorbed about as much nitrogen as it can (Steffen, W et al, 2015) and like climate change, we have a responsibility to Papatuanuku to act as Kaitiaki and reduce this pollution..

Now is the time to face the pollution problem before farmers have made themselves vulnerable by committing to expensive infrastructure for irrigation. By adopting environmentally sound nitrate loading limits, energy can be directed to finding alternative methods of farming that do not cause so much damage.

The falsehood is that pollution costs have been properly factored into the cost of intensive farming budgets. What is the cost of a dying, degraded Lagoon and who should pay to remedy this?

Reference:

Steffen, W et al, Jan 2015, **Planetary boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet**, Science Express Research articles

Joy, M 2015, **Squandered**  
<https://freshwaternz.files.wordpress.com/2015/05/squandered.pdf>