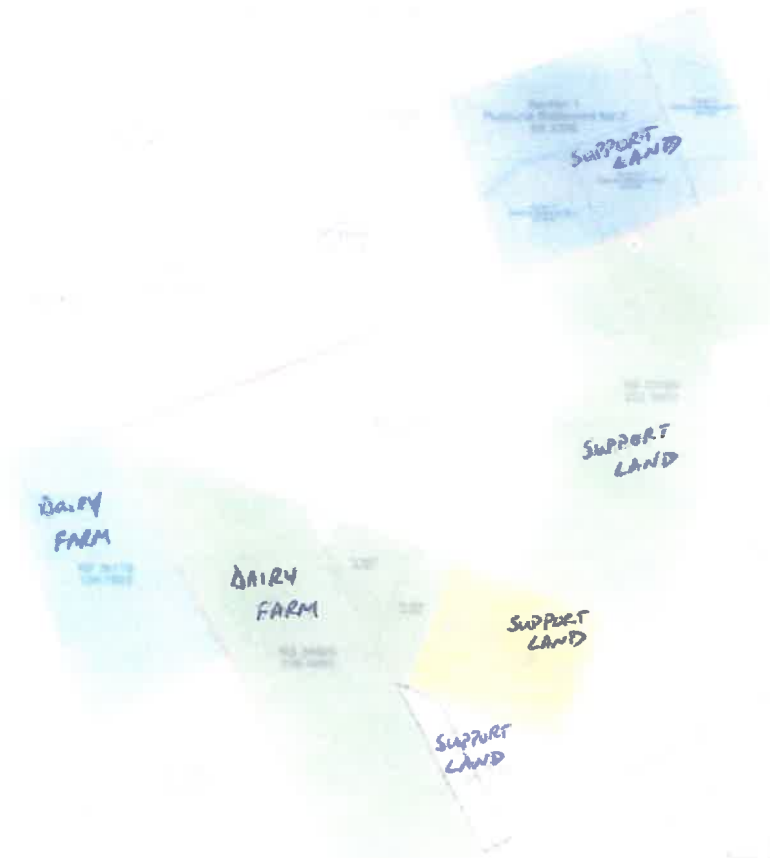


## Defining a Dairy Farm/Dairy Support/Arable

### Introduction

1. Ruapuna Farms Limited (RFL) farms approximately 950ha of farmland within the Lower Hinds catchment at 901 Moorhouse Rd 8 R D Ashburton. A map of the farm is included below.
2. The directors of the farm are Grant and Jan Early.
3. The 950 ha farm currently comprises 400ha of irrigated Dairy Platform, with an effective area of 375ha, and 550ha of non irrigated dairy support farmland, with an effective area of 520 ha.
4. The sole source of income, apart from sale of surplus stock etc is the sale of milk, i.e. all produce goes out through the vat.



### **Dairy platform**

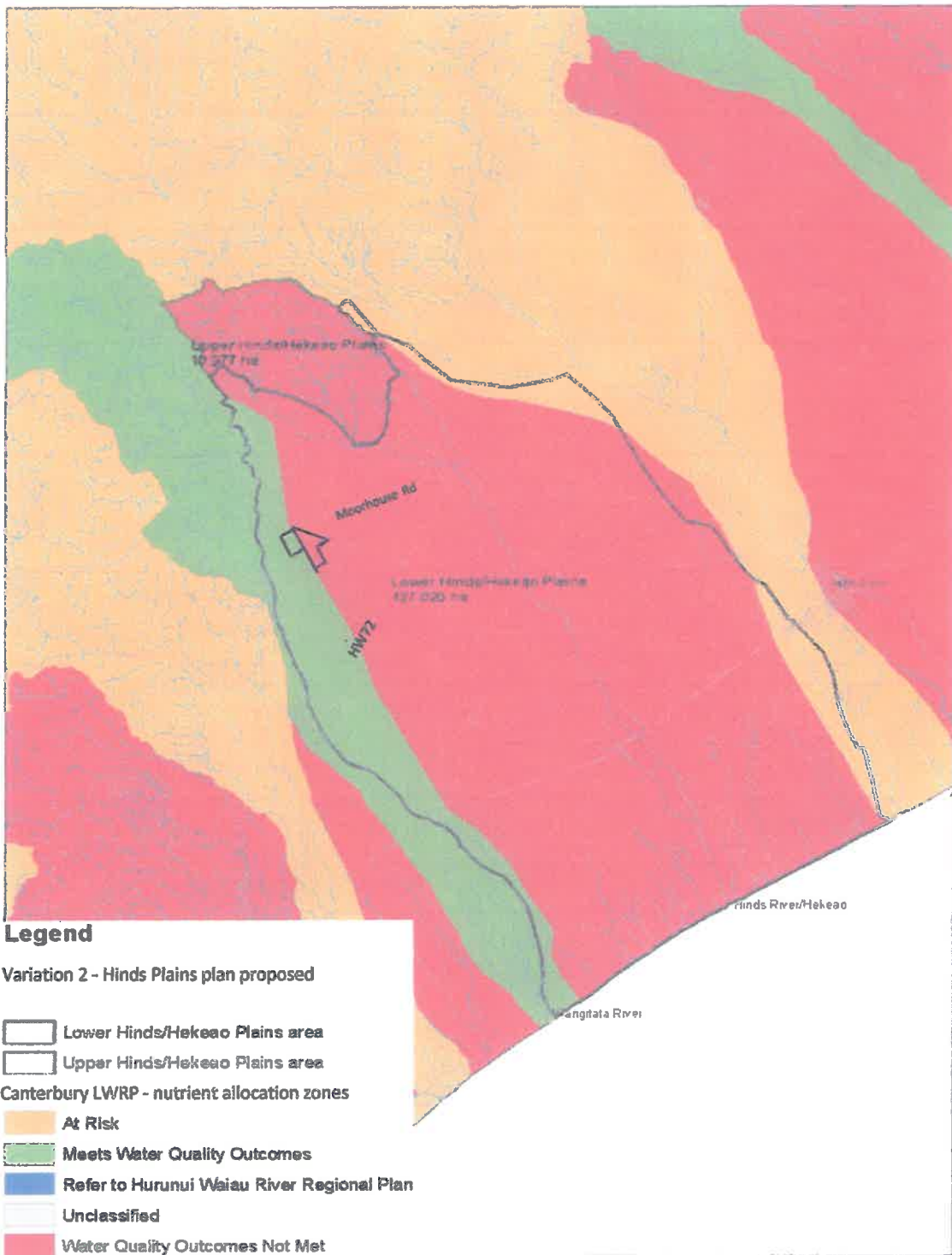
5. The Dairy Platform contains 375 effective hectares. 1465 cows are currently milked on the Dairy Platform through an 80 bail rotary shed. Stocking rate is 3.9 cows/ha.
6. The farm brings supplements onto the Dairy Platform, these comprise of approximately 1000-1100 tonnes of barley/wheat sourced from our dairy support unit.

### ***Dairy Support***

7. The Dairy Support Unit is located adjacent to the Dairy Platform. It is a total of 550 ha with 520 ha of this being effective area. It is a self-contained, dryland Support Unit growing cereals, grazing young stock and wintering cows.
8. It raises replacement stock for the dairy farm. Approx 400 R1 heifers and 360 R2 heifers.
9. The Support Unit also grows all grain and straw requirements for the Dairy Platform.
10. Current land use is 150ha growing cereals, 150ha is planted in winterfeed for wintering cows off the dairy platform and wintering replacement heifers. The balance of the support unit is planted in pasture.

### **Variation 2 categories for reduction targets**

11. Variation 2 sets out targets for reduction in nutrient leaching over time. In brief, after GMP is achieved, Dairy farms must reduce leaching by 45% by 2035, Dairy Support farms must reduce by 25% and other farms require no further reductions.
12. Variation 2 does not define a dairy farm or a dairy support farm.
13. Var 2 requires this farm, along with all others, to be classified according to its land use and associated targets.
14. That classification is unclear for Ruapuna Farms Ltd.
15. As all produce grown on the farm from the 950 ha goes to feeding cows to produce milk (i.e. goes through the vat) the whole farm could be considered to be a dairy farm and subject to the 45% reduction target over the whole land area.
16. However, as no milking cows are grazed on 550 ha, this area could be classified as a dairy support farm. All production off this area, whether it be grain, winter feed, grass silage, etc supports the dairy farm. As a dairy support farm this 550 ha area would be subject to a 25% reduction target.
17. However, 150 ha of this 550 ha support area is growing cereals for grain production. If this grain was grown on a neighbouring arable farm and sold to RFL it would be subject to the reduction targets associated with that arable farm, i.e. none after GMP is achieved. To be consistent the RFL arable area could be defined as arable farming, not dairy support or dairying.
18. If Var 2 is to be implemented and achieve its desired outcomes all farms have to be classified according to three categories.
19. There is no definition of these categories in the plan and no guidance as to how they should be defined.
20. What then is the category/ies for RFL?



### **Zone areas within Hinds Plain**

Initially when the issue of water quality within the Canterbury Plains was being investigated, the region was divided into red, orange and green

Red = water quality outcomes not met

Orange = at risk

Green = meets water quality outcomes

My understanding is that ground water in the green zone drained to the Rangitata River where nitrate concentrations was not an issue.

The attached map shows these boundaries. Approximately one third (133ha) of our dairy farm platform was in that green zone, giving us greater flexibility within that area.

Somewhere along the process this area was changed to a red zone without any consultation or discussion with effected land owners to my knowledge.

Some clarification/explanation on this matter would be very much appreciated.