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LWRP Plan Change 3

South Coastal Canterbury Streams Hearing 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

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I am the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation to have farmed the property Taranui and intend to pass it to the next in good health and with prospects for them to further increase production and in such a way that is sustainable to the business and the environment.

My farming career has been punctuated by severe, potentially crippling droughts. Weather conditions outside my control. Lucerne and the development of more drought resistant grass species are lifesavers in a district like Waihaorunga. A valley with quality soils but currently without irrigation. During the drought of Spring, Summer and Autumn 2014/15 lucerne allowed us to farm 20% of our stock on 10% of the farm. In order to cope with increasing unpredictable weather patterns as a result of global warming, we need the freedom to develop larger areas of drought resistant pasture plants. This will enable us to be sustainable in the feeding of our stock during such times.

Despite its altitude, Taranui is blessed with quality soils and is steadily and carefully being developed, this is essential for the farm to be sustainable in the future and to contribute fully to the New Zealand economy and local community by increasing production as a whole. Lucerne has proven itself over the past five years to lift production.

Weather patterns may also mean a change in land use is indicated and as caretakers of the land we need the freedom to decide what is best for a sustainable future.

Most producers farm for the long term future and are not controlled by short term market forces which are fleeting and unpredictable. We, therefore, believe it is unjust for one agricultural producer to sacrifice his production potential in favour of another.

The introduction of the ZIP Addendum and the way it was being presented gave me, as a low emitter, grave concerns for the future development and sustainability of our property, hence my becoming involved with the Nitrogen Allocation Reference Group hereinafter known as NARG.

I was very disappointed at the way the process was orchestrated and horrified that ECAN – an environmental guardian, was so obviously in favour of the high emitters and were happy for low emitters to subsidise the levels of pollution produced by the high emitters, so hampering for all time their potential to farm sustainably.

Adding insult to injury, zoning was changed without explanation. Who authorised this?

Why was the Waihao catchment area changed from orange to red without a satisfactory explanation?



Why should some of the water from the Waihao catchment be used to offset the high nitrate levels from the Hunter Downs area? As this is offset at Wainono there has been no benefit to water or the environment upstream in the Hunter Downs area, whatsoever!

I have attended all 10 meetings of NARG and have come away feeling let down and conscious of a split in our farming community.

I believe that there was an agenda being driven for short term financial gain for NZ Inc and a short sighted lack of consideration for the environment and long term NZ Inc.

In conclusion

I believe the whole process needs to start again but wait until the Matrix of Good Management has been released as it may contain information that will help the decision making process.

The Zone Committee Chair should be neutral and any conflict of interest be declared.

Overseer is not a regulatory tool and should not be used as such.

The Waihao catchment should be dealt with on its own like that of the Otaio catchment.

For our farm to possibly apply for a resource consent to increase our N allocation when we are a low emitter, whilst the high emitter who is causing pollution is allowed to carry on is, to me completely unjust and shortsighted.

I ask that the commissioners give this submission full consideration in their deliberations with respect to the impact their decisions will make on the sustainability of the rural foothills communities and environment and the future of the family farm in New Zealand.

