

**BEFORE THE CANTERBURY REGIONAL  
COUNCIL**

**UNDER**

The Environment  
Canterbury (Temporary  
Commissioners and  
Improved Water  
Management) Act 2010

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER**

Submissions and Further  
Submissions on  
Proposed Plan Change 5  
to the Canterbury Land  
and Water Regional Plan

---

Evidence of George Alexander Hugh McLean on Behalf of  
**JG & LM Murchison** (Submitter No 67179) and **JWK Hoban & Ors** (Submitter No  
67198)

---

Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> July 2016

## **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Our names are George Alexander Hugh McLean
- 1.2 I have worked in the agricultural industry all my life, starting as a shepherd after leaving school. I returned home to the family farm a couple of years later . In partnership with my father the farm was divided for sucession planning purposes. This property also increased in size with the purchase of part of neighbouring farms in the 80's and also the 90's with joint finances from my mother and wife. We also tried to spread our risk with the purchase of dairy property on the West Coast.
- 1.3 I am farming in partnership with my wife Marianne Elizabeth McLean. We own 480 ha in the Omihi Valley. We also own 500 ha dairy farm on the West Coast.
- 1.4 Eastlynne is a breeding operation, running a Romney cross ewe flock, beef fattening and dairy support.. We finish all own progeny although this has been almost impossible over the last 2 years and has certainly impacted on the bottom line with stock at times not reaching target weights and going within an acceptable time frame.
- 1.5 Our farm is located within the Waipara catchment. The issues we discuss in our evidence are typical of dry land farms.

## **2. SCOPE OF EVIDENCE**

- 2.1 My evidence supports submissions made by JKW Hoban and Others, and JG & LMW Murchison on the following matters:

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

We make a large contribution to the national economy but due to the drought and the down turn we are running at a loss.

For two people in their 50's our business output is high our costs are low, we are under extreme pressure to try and make our business work.

Our farming business is dry land. This means the variations with in and between seasons can be huge. The main driver of this is rain fall and temperature, effecting pasture growth. Due to two years of drought conditions we have only been able to

winter 3500 stock units as compared to 5000 su. The fluctuation of local and international markets also have a large influence on the mix of stock classes we carry. With in our sheep breeding and finishing operation and our dairy support this constantly evolves.

We have a farm environment plan, to fence areas and plant natives which due to current financial pressures we are unable to implement.

We use various professional advisers including, fertiliser reps , agronomists and a consultant.

We don't think Farm plans should be a requirement of a permitted activity for low emitting farmers as they need to be continually evolving with the changing circumstance to be effective, and once in legislation this is difficult. Industry is already doing a very good job of driving progress in this space.

#### **IRRIGATION :**

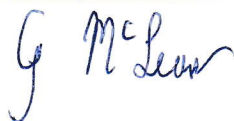
We believe for our farm irrigation is very important to the future viability of our business and the drought has high lighted this. It would give us some certainty and reliability for our future.

#### **CONCLUSIONS:**

We believe we are custodians of our land and it is in our interests and the interests of future generations to care for our environment and make improvement where possible.

We wish to work with ECan where practical and affordable but we need an honest balanced approach with not just scientific data but also historical local data which to date we believe has not held enough importance.

George McLean

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G McLean', is written below the printed name.