

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991
AND
IN THE MATTER of the hearing of submissions on Proposed
Plan Change 5 (Nutrient Management and
Waitaki Sub-region) to the Canterbury Land
and Water Regional Plan

BY **ANDREW HAYES**

AND **WAITAKI IRRIGATORS COLLECTIVE
LIMITED**

Submitters

TO **CANTERBURY REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Local authority

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF ANDREW GARFIELD HAYES

Dated: 22 July 2016

Prudence Steven QC
Canterbury Chambers
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INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Andrew Hayes. I have farmed in the Hakataramea Valley ("**the Haka**") for over fifteen years, formerly as a sheep and beef farmer, but now I am a third season dairy farmer. My family has been farming in the Haka for over one hundred and thirty years. I hold a Bachelor of Commerce and Farm Management degree from the University of Lincoln. In between graduating and returning to the Haka, I spent several years overseas before I returned home with my wife Elizabeth.
2. The Hakataramea River is a north-bank tributary of the Lower Waitaki mainstem, the two having a confluence approximately 6.5 kilometres downstream of the Waitaki Dam.
3. I am Chairman of the Haka Valley Irrigation Company ("**HVIL**") and a committee member of the Waitaki Independent Irrigators Incorporated Society, which is a shareholder of the Waitaki Irrigators Collective Limited.
4. I am a community representative on the Lower Waitaki-South Coastal Canterbury Water Management Zone Committee ("**the Zone Committee**").

SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

5. My evidence will provide information about HVIL and my farming operation, and what effect the proposed rules for the Waitaki sub-region will have on them.

HVIL AND MY FARM

6. I am one of three "wet" shareholders of HVIL. The company is currently irrigating 1157 hectares in the Haka Valley. We have just finished our first irrigation season with much success. The Hakataramea sub-catchment was originally designated as an 'orange zone' under the Land and Water Regional Plan.
7. My farm is the only dairy milking platform in the Haka, and it is 90 percent irrigated with water from the Lower Waitaki mainstem. My farm is consented to use 6000m³ of Waitaki water per hectare per year, with a Nitrogen discharge limit of 17.5kgN/ha/yr under OVERSEER version 6.1.2.
8. HVIL holds a discharge permit which allows the discharge of a maximum of 58,770kg N per year, which expires in 2020. As one of the shareholders in the company, I am subject to the conditions of this permit and its water permit, including having an externally-audited Farm Environment Plan (FEP), undertaking flow metering, and stringent water supply agreements with conditions I must comply with in order to receive water from the scheme.

9. HVIL also undertakes water quality monitoring for the Hakataramea River. This commenced with a comprehensive baseline study that was undertaken in 2012 for the whole of the sub-catchment in order to determine the current state of water quality.
10. HVIL undertakes ongoing monitoring across seven sites on the Hakataramea mainstem, as well as some tributary streams.

PROPOSED RULE FRAMEWORK

11. It is my submission that the proposed sub-regional rules create heavy compliance burdens for farmers who will be reluctant to comply with the plan. The rules will not improve or sustain water quality in the Valley.
12. As an intensive farmer, I consider the use of FEPs to be an effective tool to implement and monitor Good Management Practices (GMPs), and this is being done well at the irrigation-scheme level.
13. I do not believe that water quality outcomes will necessarily be improved by requiring an extra layer of consenting for individual farmers. However, in my mind both extensive and intensive farmers do have the ability to degrade our water quality if they are not aware of the environmental impacts of their farming practices. This can be achieved by teaching Good Management Practices to all land users. All farmers should be required to do a FEP and be audited.
14. Although HVIL has a nutrient discharge allowance attached to its consent, I do not consider that this is necessary or desirable in all places, but the provisions of the Plan effectively force this upon farmers who would otherwise be required to gain their own land use consent.
15. I do not believe that Environment Canterbury will be able to effectively implement and monitor the high number of consents required under the rules as proposed.
16. Irrigation development in the Waitaki is already widespread, and has been for many years. Any continued intensification in the future will be limited by water availability from both the Haka and Waitaki Rivers. Therefore, highly complex rules aimed at preventing something which is unlikely to occur will create an unnecessary burden on the community and Environment Canterbury - for little environmental gain.

Andrew Garfield Hayes

22 July 2016