

**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 **Dan Shand** on Behalf of
JG & LM Murchison (Submitter No 67179) and **JWK Hoban & Ors** (Submitter No
67198)

Dated: 22nd July 2016

INTRODUCTION:

1. My name is Dan Shand and I farm at Island Hills Station in North Canterbury with my wife Amanda and two children Amalia and Hugh. We also have a honey and tourism business called Everything NZ Limited and software company On-farm Innovations. I have a Diploma in Business Management from Canterbury University.
2. Our business was awarded the Supreme Ballance Farm Environment Award for Canterbury in 2012 which led me to apply for a Nuffield Scholarship which I was awarded in 2014 along with a position on the Worshipful Company of Farmers Advanced Agricultural Business Management programme in England.
3. Since completing my scholarship I have joined the Hurunui/Waiau zone committee, chaired the Ballance Farm Environment Awards Review Panel, was elected onto the Northern South Island Farmer Council for Beef & Lamb New Zealand, and recently appointed as associated director of the rural leadership consortium overseeing the Nuffield and Kellogg leadership programs.
4. Although I have a number of interests, my passion is trying to contribute and establish a clear pathway for the red meat sector so that my children and the younger generation will aspire to work in the sector.

FARMING OPERATION:

5. Our farm is a 7000 Ha high country property with 1200 ewes, 300 hoggets, 200 cows and 35-50 replacement heifers.
6. Our current management is extensive in order to minimise environmental impact. We often plant more than 20Ha of winter crops for cattle (replacement heifers) with grass to ensure covers are maintained and micro Risa is kept healthy. We feed supplements (hay) that is purchased due to our farm not having any paddocks suitable for making our own. Our current overseer number is less than 4 kg/ha/yr.
7. It is a normal and essential part of farming to feed extensively grazed livestock fodder crops and supplements such as hay or baleage during winter in most of Canterbury, and especially in hill and the high country. There is insufficient pasture growth to support cattle without saved pasture, fodder crops or supplements.
8. Under proposed Plan Change 5 we would require a resource consent for a restricted discretionary activity for our farm as we winter graze cattle on more than 20ha of fodder crop or supplements. We would also not be allowed any increase in our N loss number.

9. To avoid this scenario, we would have to consider a fodder crop that is planted without grass to maximise yield in order to stay below 20Ha. In my view, that would have a greater environmental impact than our current operation including:

- Hill country soil exposed to rain and wind causing runoff and erosion as there would be no grass cover following on from the grazed fodder crop.
- Degradation of soil biology and structure due to the absence of grass to maximise yield per/Ha.
- Compaction from machinery due to the requirement to consider making hay on land not suitable for that purpose.
- Likely an increase in N losses as the paddock would be fallow until replanted, rather than growing grass that uptakes N.

10. I believe this situation can be avoided through changes to Plan Change 5 including:

- Amending the definition of winter grazing so it does not capture all cattle grazed on fodder crops or fed supplements;
- Adjusting the limitations on the area of winter grazing allowed as a permitted activity, to take account of larger properties.

Dan Shand

Island Hills Station