

## **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.

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Evidence of Jamie Robert McFadden on behalf of Hurunui SNA Group and Rural Advocacy Network [Submitter No C16C/31005]

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22 July 2016

### **1. Introduction**

**1.1** My name is Jamie Robert McFadden

**1.2** I gained a Diploma in Parks & Recreation Management with Distinction from Lincoln University 1987 - 1989. This was a 3 year course that included a basic grounding on the Resource Management Act.

**1.3** After 6 years on North Canterbury Federated Farmers Provincial Executive I was elected a councillor to the Hurunui District Council for 6 years. The latter 3 years I chaired the Environmental Services Committee which dealt with RMA & other legislative issues. I gained accreditation for RMA hearings & chaired a number of hearings. Through this & my extra reading I have gained an in depth understanding of the RMA. More recently I have become heavily involved in Hurunui Waiau freshwater planning issues & have a good understanding of the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014.

**1.4** For the past 15 years my occupation is as an environmental consultant & native restoration expert. My wife Linda & I established our own business Hurunui Natives based on an eco-sourced native plant nursery & planting team servicing the North Canterbury/Kaikoura area. Our client base is mainly farmers & we have planned & successfully implemented hundreds of wetland, riparian & native bush/shrubland projects. We sponsored & helped coordinate the Greening Waipara project which has seen over 25,000 eco sourced native plants established on 52 properties.

**1.5** As part of our business we offer a free service to landowners assisting them to link in with various environment assistance programmes. A number of the Immediate Steps projects & recent QEII covenants have been initiated by us.

**1.6** I also help on the family farm an 800 hectare steep hill country sheep, beef & forestry property on the banks of the Hurunui River. Our family has a long history of protecting native bush & riparian vegetation including a 17 ha native bush 'reserve' fenced off in 1983. My brother Scott has recently fenced off another area & we have been approved for a QEII

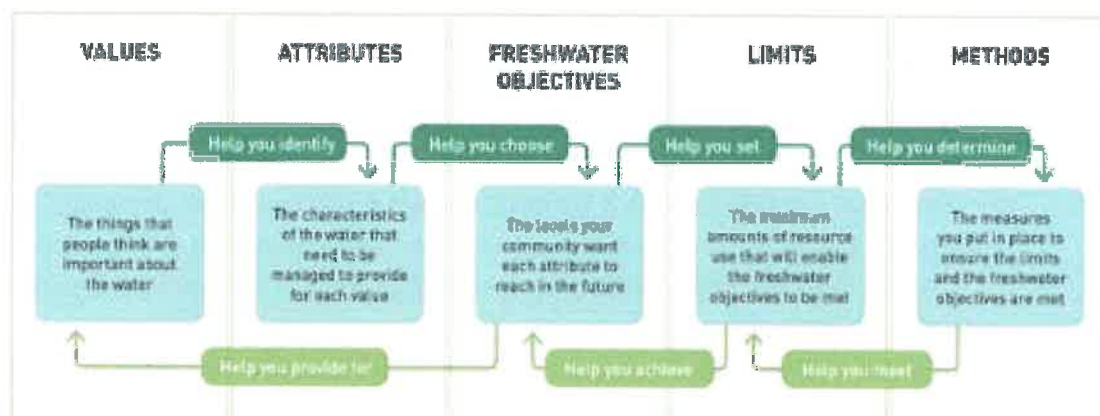
covenant. My parents had a long partnership with the Catchment Board based on a farm plan. As part of this plan three on farm poplar nurseries were established to provide poles for erosion control.

- 1.7 My interest in erosion control planting continues today & I voluntarily coordinate poplar pole orders [from ECans poplar & willow nursery] & provide free erosion control advice to landowners in the Hurunui District area. We also run an experienced erosion control planting team.
- 1.8 My passion is working with landowners to achieve positive environmental actions on the ground. Through my extensive day to day involvement with hundreds of Hurunui landowners I have gained a comprehensive understanding of their attitudes to environmental issues. It is through these interactions that I have seen a significant loss of trust in ECan & widespread opposition/concern to the mandatory approach to farm plans, portal, Overseer. This is outlined below.

## 2. Freshwater planning overview

- 2.1 The starting point for freshwater planning is the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 – [NPS- FM 2014] & the Resource Management Act [1991]. The Ministry for the Environments guidelines on both the NPS-FM 2014 & RMA Section 32 provide excellent detailed outlines of the requirements & processes to follow when councils undertake freshwater planning.
- 2.2 We believe the requirements outlined in the NPS-FM 2014 & Section 32 are very well thought out & if properly followed will deliver successful planning outcomes. Our submission is that Plan Change 5 [PC5] to the partially operative Canterbury Land & Water Regional Plan [LWRP] has not met the requirements of the NPS-FM2014 & Section 32 of the RMA.
- 2.3 The NPS-FM 2014 guidelines explain the concept of Freshwater Management Units [FMU] & how to define these. Once this has been done the table below [taken from the NPS-FM 2014 guidelines] explains the process to be followed.

Figure 3: The relationship between freshwater objectives, limits and methods [10]



However before determining freshwater objectives, limits & policies the guidelines highlight that Councils need to:

- [1] scientifically quantify the current state of freshwater &