

Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury)

Proposed Plan Change 5 (Nutrient Management and Waitaki Sub-region)

to the

Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan

MINUTE OF HEARING COMMISSIONERS

on R W Sutton's invitation for "site visit"

[Minute 3]

1. We refer to para 36 of legal submissions dated 15 September by counsel for the Waitaki Irrigators Collective about Mr Sutton's invitation for us to make a "site visit" at his property.
2. Although not acknowledged in counsel's submissions, counsel will know that a visit to Mr Sutton's property could not be to receive additional evidence in private and off the record; but only to *see* what is pointed out to us, to whatever extent that may help us understand what has already been said by Mr Sutton in his evidence at our public hearing at Oamaru on 7th September.
3. The subject of our hearings is general contents of a proposed change to the Land and Water Regional Plan. It is not a site-specific proposal.
4. To assist our consideration of the proposal that we take a view of his property, we have reviewed Mr Sutton's statement of evidence, which is endorsed by senior counsel. We are not unfamiliar with mixed cropping and pastoral farming of the type clearly described by Mr Sutton in his evidence. We are also acquainted with the rolling country in the Hakataramea Valley. Mr Sutton responded to our questions about his evidence at the public hearing; and we are satisfied that we understand the factual situation from which the contents of his submission and further submission arise.
5. We acknowledge Mr Sutton's invitation, and thank him for it. We are not persuaded that a visit to his property would, in the context of the proposed plan change, assist us in understanding more fully the evidence he has given or his submissions. So we respectfully decline it.

For the Hearing Commissioners:



David F Sheppard

25 September 2016