

Tabled at Hearing 14/10/2014.

Peter Chamberlain speaking to ECAN Hearing 14th October 2014

- I would like to have the ability to adapt change or increase production. I don't particularly want to be dairy farming but farms that have not been at maximum potential the last four years are penalised.
- The nutrient leaching problem should be approached from a good farming practice perspective rather than base it on 2009-2014.
- There are many reasons why farms were not at potential 2009-2014.eg. Succession, ownership structure, climate, markets.
- The proposed plan rewards the biggest polluters.
- Irrigation has helped us survive climatic and economic challenges. We have gone from dry land livestock, with severe limitations, to irrigated livestock and cropping.
- We have been well pumping for irrigation since 1971, when there was very little irrigation west of SH 1. In dry years the well levels dropped to lower than today, the former Catchment Board have the data to prove it. Rainfall has a huge impact on what happens in our aquifers.
- With the limited irrigation we have we don't always pump to our maximum allocation. Because it would be wasteful and doesn't make economic sense either. But we need the capacity to irrigate when it is required. Why take away allocation because it is not always used?
- Withdrawing water-rights does not seem to be in keeping with ECAN'S stated aim of increasing irrigation in Canterbury or necessarily help the environment.
- How sound are the assumptions of what is actually causing Lake Ellesmere's problems?