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To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: Plan Change 7 to the LWRP Submission
Date: Friday, 13 September 2019 4:02:42 PM
Attachments: [plan change 7.docx](#)

Plan Change 7 Submission

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About us

Oxford Agricultural Services Ltd is a locally owned and operated business in Waimakariri District based in Oxford, and servicing many farms in the Waimakariri zone. Our services range from cultivation, planting, harvesting, baling, silage making to rural transport and general farm maintenance. We employ 25 fulltime employees, and have a total seasonal staff for 6 months of over 50 staff, only around 6 of these staff are non locals. Last year our turnover exceeded five million dollars.

Our business was started in 1981 servicing the basic needs of farmers in this area. Our business grew from a staff of 4 seasonal operators once the Waimakariri Irrigation Scheme was developed in 1999 to our current staff and service of today. Along this time we have embraced technologies such as gps and other machinery advancements for better environment health and production efficiency. We source industry knowledge around crops that provide positive environmental outcomes such as maize technology which helps use high levels of nitrogen and potassium in the soil, and turns it into productive feed.

Our business supports over 40 community groups with donations last year exceeding \$30000.

Reasons for our submission

We are concerned that Nitrogen reductions proposed in table 8.9 will make many of our client's businesses uneconomic. This will in turn make our business unsustainable, as a contractor to these farms we will be one of the first farm expenses to be cut. This not only ends our company but loses the opportunity for these farmers to be accessing these new technologies, as many will not afford new technology and revert to dated soil and crop conservation techniques.

We accept that water quality outcomes need to improve, but we believe there is a lot of uncertainty around the science used to set nitrate reductions, and how the effectiveness of these reductions will be monitored going forward.

I believe the time scale for these changes is too short. Methods such as Managed Aquifer Recharge need to have room for consideration in the plan to help meet water quality targets.

Plan Change 7 will be of benefit to us as we would like to the water quality objectives achieved as we all want clean healthy rivers as we enjoy many aspects of these great resources.

What we are requesting

I understand that Waimakariri Irrigation Limited and the Next Generation Farmers Trust have put forward an alternative Plan Change 7 framework. I fully support both their submissions and the outcomes sought.