

From: [David Giddings](#)
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: Fwd: Submission
Date: Saturday, 14 September 2019 10:01:26 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Julia Crossman <julia@opuha.co.nz>
Date: 13 September 2019 at 1:15:55 PM NZST
To: David Giddings <giddingsfamily@xtra.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Submission

Hi, I assume you have sent this to ECan?

If not please send to mailroom@ecan.govt.nz

Julia Crossman | Environmental Manager | **Opuha Water Ltd** | 875 Arowhenua Rd |
RD4 | TIMARU 7974 | Phone 03 614 7801 | Mobile 021 535 174 |
www.opuhawater.co.nz



From: David Giddings <giddingsfamily@xtra.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 13 September 2019 1:04 PM
To: Julia Crossman <julia@opuha.co.nz>
Subject: FW: Submission

From: George Giddings <gdgiddings@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 13 September 2019 2:06 AM
To: David Giddings <giddingsfamily@xtra.co.nz>
Subject: Submission

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed alterations to the PC7 regulations.

As a resident of the Fairlie basin, I am deeply concerned by these proposed changes which would drastically reduce the reliability of irrigation in the district, particularly during dry summer periods when the water is most crucial. This could severely effect the economic, social and psychological health of the district.

I remember Fairlie in the 1990s - before the Opuha dam scheme - as quite a desolate place. Shops closed and remained empty, there was little employment and much of the population - in particular the youth - drifted away. School rolls

dwindled and the Mackenzie rugby club struggled to field a senior team. People were stressed, downcast and perhaps unsurprisingly resorted to alcohol a lot.

What was needed was a local solution to these problems, and with the foundation of the South Canterbury Farmers Irrigation Society, now OWL, that is what we got. Within a few years of the irrigation development all this changed. New families arrived to work on farms that now needed and could afford new staff. More jobs sprung up in the rural service sector- truck drivers, fencers, vets etc. Not only were the existing houses all filled, there were new ones springing up as well. This phenomenal rejuvenation is perhaps best exemplified by the Mackenzie rugby club winning the 2002 senior championship for the first time in decades, with a team bolstered by a cohort of Pacific Island farm workers who have now settled in the district. The team has remained competitive since and Fairlie continues to thrive, but all this is now under threat.

As a rural doctor, I have seen first-hand the effects of chronic stress on the mental and physical health of rural New Zealanders. The seasonal stress associated with a dry summer is one of the most prevalent. So strong is this link that a key tool I use to discuss depression and suicidality in my rural patients is an analogy between depression and drought - particularly the feelings of desperation and hopelessness that it will ever rain again. The ability to avoid this situation through irrigation has of course been very helpful, but these proposed rule changes will cut water off when it is most needed, making the situation worse than it ever was. The mere threat of increasingly draconian regulations is already having an impact on the mental health of our rural communities, who are a population whose vulnerability to suicide in particular we are increasingly aware of. Farm Strong, the rural mental health initiative, has identified government regulation and adverse weather as the two key stressors leading to mental health problems - this issue can be seen as both rolled into one.

The proposed PC7 changes risk causing severe social, economic and psychological harm to the Fairlie community, and to introduce these changes would be ethically untenable.

Yours faithfully,

Dr George Giddings
MBChB FRNZCGP FDRHM

Sent from my iPhone