Hi There. I'm unsure if my computer sent this document earlier. Please disregard if it did. I have been having computer issues.

Thanks
Henry Pearse
SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 7 TO THE CANTERBURY LAND AND WATER REGIONAL PLAN

Clause 5 First Schedule, Resource Management Act 1991

TO: Proposed Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan

Environment Canterbury
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140

By email: mailroom@ecan.govt.nz

Name of submitter:

1 Name: Henry Pearse and Jeff Pearse

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Trade competition statement:

2 We could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

Proposal this submission relates to is:

3 This submission is on proposed Plan Change 7 (PC7) to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (PC7).

Wish to be Heard:

4 We wish to be heard in support of this submission.

5 We would be prepared to consider presenting a joint case with others making similar submissions at the hearing.

Signature
Name

Date: 13 September 2018
Submission

Background

I am a deer farmer in Waitohi. I am in the process of taking over management of the family farm and value the work that has been done before me to ensure the sustainability and profitability of the land. We irrigate a large part of the deer farm with water from the Opuha Dam.

I am also a very keen fisherman and recreational user of the river. I travel large distances over the country fishing, and maintain that some of the best fishing to be had is in the Opihi River and the quality of water is very good.

Submission points

I strongly oppose the increase in minimum flows of the Opihi River as proposed and strongly support the role OEFRAG which is proven to be a very valuable community group, making good decisions when the lake level is threatened.

I and many other fishermen and farmers alike believe the water is best kept in the dam, to ensure the continuity of the river so good flows can be achieved in late summer, rather than the river being dry, like years prior to the dam.

I also oppose the rules in regard to the Mataitai Protection Zone regarding fencing and stock exclusion. I believe that the area chosen is not logically thought out, a blanket 2km exclusion from the river is not beneficial to all areas, some parts of creeks will need to be fenced off while areas above and below that spot may not need. This is not achieving the best outcome for everyone. Most farms in the Mataitai Protection Zone will have a FEP and most of the major creeks and streams will already be fenced. It seems unfair to make such a blanket stock exclusion for flood channels and drains when the best outcome may be achieved by other solutions such as sediments traps and measures in FEP’s.