

Presentation to hearings for Plan Change 1 of Hurunui Waiiau River Regional Plan.

By: Jeff Wilkinson for Rural Advocacy Network

I would like to talk to you about the Human factor in these plan changes and new rules, riverbed lines etc.

For every action there is a reaction good or bad, and here is where nowhere in the process dose it appear the governance or planners quantify the reaction in regards the human response to what they do.

We live in a world where every organisation is trying to eliminate bullying, intimidation and stand over tactics.

Environment Canterbury is at present guilty of all of these, dealing with some issues in rural Canterbury.

When these rules, mapping, occur the impact can be quite severe.

The mental strain for these decisions lands on those directly affected on the ground, Those driving these plans, rules, mapping etc go home and get on with their lives at the end of the day, while those affected live with these issues 24/7.

I can give you several examples of rural residents feeling these mental stresses.

A farmer approached me on Saturday told of how he had been farming for 43 years through droughts, snow storms, bad financial years, earthquakes, but for him the most stressed he has ever been is dealing with ecan with his farming. (Insidently he is an outstanding farmer with very good land management practices)

He now has got to the situation of banning ecan from his entering his property, and this is becoming a common theme with landowners throughout hurunui.

With these plan changes or riverbed lines meetings, it is virtually impossible to get change on these for those directly affected, as the meetings are generally filled with members of the public that have no ties to the land affected physically, mentally or financially,

We have had several meetings onsite with our group, with Ecan Commissioners, planners, and elected members and quiet frankly all of our discussions seem to have fallen on deaf ears, to the point where I feel it no longer is worth our time.

As Jamie mentioned, we had a great system in the 80s and 90s with the Catchment Board. We had Phil McQuigan, as their representative a very highly respected man in North Canterbury, whom was welcomed onto any property. he personally came with ideas and worked with the landowners with great success.

I am not saying that the general public should not have input into these plans etc,

all i am asking is that ecan show some respect and if they are going to affect people with what they do, at least have the curtesy of talking to those directly affected first.