

**From:** [Jo & Steve McA](#)  
**To:** [Plan Hearings](#)  
**Subject:** Evidence from Steve McAtamney Submitter 440  
**Date:** Friday, 17 July 2020 9:28:45 am  
**Attachments:** [Evidence - Jo and Steve McAtamney.docx](#)

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF  
Steve McAtamney on behalf of Four Peaks Station, Fairlie  
(Submitter number 440)**

**Introduction**

1. My name is Steve McAtamney
2. I am providing this evidence on behalf of Four Peaks Station

**Four Peaks Station**

3. Our farm is all extensive hill country, 2SU (2 sheep, or 1/3 beef cow, or 1 deer) per Hectare, except the 52Ha of irrigable flats
4. The 8 main rivers on our farm have their source at high altitude
5. We have only 52Ha of irrigable flats which we need to make silage to feed the stock in winter – basic animal welfare, we get 2 or 3 good snowfalls each winter.
6. We have lots of small streams over the farm & we're putting culverts in as fast as we can to prevent the stock walking through the water. 74 culverts have been installed to date over last 2-3 years
7. There is no stock pressure above 500m altitude in extensive country so it's unnecessary & a waste of resources to fence streams above 500m
8. All forestry blocks should be fenced with deer fence to contain their wildlife (pigs, tahr, deer) & prevent them infesting neighbouring farms. Are there any rules on Forestry owners re weed & pest control? Do they even pay rates? How do the blanket spray chemicals applied in tree planting stages affect the waterways through forestry blocks?
9. Land that has been retired or tenure-reviewed to DOC has wild-life (pigs, deer, tahr, possums, hares, etc), & weeds (wilding pines, Spanish heath, gorse, broom, etc) going out of control. Ecan staff waste taxpayers money driving or helicoptering over the land counting trees, writing reports... they would be more productive out chain-sawing or spraying
10. Sowing a winter feed paddock within a month of it being eaten off is not practical. Crop is eaten off in June, then July & August here are very cold wet months, so any seed /fertiliser sown would rot in the ground, ruin the soil structure.

11. Most NZ farms are over 10% slope (except the Canterbury plains). Instead of using a 10% slope figure, you should use best management practices for that particular paddock/block eg. Graze it from the bottom upwards to avoid runoff through the remaining crop
12. Farmers take a lot of risk in borrowing the millions to purchase their farms, & run successful farming businesses, providing food for the country & export – so with no irrigation water, less stock, less employees... can't service the interest to the Bank
13. Councils & government are not legally allowed to degrade the value of freehold land (stated somewhere in an Act 1913?)
14. All farmers use good management practice in their daily business... they don't need a newly coined term to describe what they're already doing - GMP
15. New Zealand actually needs farmers & employers to continue what they're doing for the good of the country, and now more than ever, to produce food
16. Fertiliser is not spread on land with leaching in mind, only what is needed following soil tests is applied, & only in suitable weather conditions
17. We've been farming for 45 years, & we've assisted 3 sons in to farms. They employ a total of 20 staff between them. It would be sad to see them & other capable, passionate people leave such a valuable, important industry because of costly, impractical rules being imposed by mainly inexperienced, office workers with no common sense.

### **Stock Exclusion**

18. It is my understanding that PC7 seeks to retain the region wide policies for stock exclusion
19. These stock exclusion rules would cause us to decrease Stock units to uneconomic levels – this would put a lot of farms out of farming (probably be planted in pine trees), this would have an adverse effect on towns & communities.
20. Our 5 employees would be out of work, the \$1,000,000 we spend annually on farming would add to the decline in business for our service towns, a domino effect through schools, bakery, shops etc.
21. We seek that the stock exclusion provisions in PC7 reflect the difficulties of stock exclusion on high country farms within the OTOP zone.