

**From:** [Sue Ruston](#)  
**To:** [Plan Hearings](#)  
**Cc:** [samsb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:samsb@xtra.co.nz); [Platinumfarming](#); [Merv Todd](#); [David Winter](#); [Mark Christensen](#); [Grant Edmundson](#)  
**Subject:** PC7 - Evidence for Next Generation Farmers Trust  
**Date:** Friday, 17 July 2020 5:48:12 pm  
**Attachments:** [PC7 - NGFT - Evidence of Dan Encell.pdf](#)  
[PC7 - NGFT - Evidence of J Austin.pdf](#)  
[PC7 - NGFT - Evidence of R Nortje.pdf](#)  
[PC7 - NGFT - Expert Evidence Planning Susan Ruston.pdf](#)  
[PC7 - NGFT - Evidence of D and R Clark.pdf](#)  
[PC7 - NGFT - Evidence of Victoria Travnor.pdf](#)  
[PC7 - NGFT - Evidence of Sam Spencer-Bower for NGFT.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon

I have been instructed by the Next Generation Farmers Trust to lodge, on their behalf, the attached evidence in accordance with Minute 1 to Proposed Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan.

Your sincerely

Sue Ruston

**IN THE MATTER OF**

The Resource Management Act  
1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

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

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF Richard Nortje**

**For Rangvet Ltd (Rangiora Vet Centre)**

**17 JULY 2020**

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1. My full name is Richard Nortje. I am a qualified veterinary surgeon who graduated in 2008 and have been in farm animal practice since. I have also completed a post-graduate diploma in Veterinary Preventative Medicine which included extensive learning of New Zealand farming systems.
2. Rangvet Ltd (Rangiora Vet Centre) made a submission on PC 7 - number PC7-96.
3. I am one of the four shareholders in Rangvet Ltd. I have worked at the Rangiora Vet Centre for 7 years and been a shareholder for 2 years. I am presenting this evidence on behalf of the shareholders.
4. We are based in Rangiora with branch clinics in Kaiapoi and Woodend. Our veterinary clinic currently provides employment for 73 people. We support local clubs, schools and events such as Rangiora & Oxford A&P shows, North Canterbury Sports Trust & Awards, Waimakariri Gorge Golf Club - Junior Golf Programme, Riding for the Disabled, Local horse eventing meets, Rangiora Racetrack and the Next Generation Farmers Trust.
5. We are sponsors of the Next Generation Farmers Trust and we support the changes to PC 7 sought by the Trust. We also support the objectives and work of the Trust generally because it embraces the evolution of farming for the benefit of the community and the environment.
6. Our original submission and this statement of evidence is about the likely effects on the veterinary clinic's business, our employees and on our farming clients if the Waimakariri Sub-region components of PC 7 are confirmed without change. We are committed to supporting farmers to run their farming operations in an environmentally responsible manner, and we understand the need to change practices over time to further reduce nutrient losses. However, we are concerned that PC 7 as notified will result in the need for changes which put our farming clients' farming operations at risk of being financially unsustainable.
7. Our business wants to support our clients and be part of the solution to water quality issues in the Waimakariri. We believe that working in partnership with

the Next Generation Farmers Trust, Environment Canterbury, and others, will be the best way to achieve the environmental gains sought because that will mean there is a community effort.

8. Under the notified version of PC 7 it would appear that many of our clients (depending on which nutrient sub-zone they are within) may struggle to have a financially viable business in the long term. If that happens, it will directly impact our current business model to a point where it may not be viable for us to keep the current number of staff in employment. This would have flow on effects in the community such as our ability to provide a quality of service necessary to help ensure animal welfare within the Waimakariri district and our ability to provide sponsorship such as outlined above.
9. Rangvet Ltd supports the overall water quality objectives in PC 7 as we want to see clean healthy rivers in our district. But farming operations need to remain viable if farmers are to achieve the community's desired water quality outcomes. With PC 7 as notified I am very concerned for our dairy farming clients' futures and flow on economic affect to the agriculture service industry, the economic and social impact on the district from PC 7 that will severely affect land values, viability of farms and mental health of farmers.
10. The two main problems I see with PC 7 are the requirement in Table 8-9 to reduce nutrient losses by specific percentages beyond 2040, and the complexities introduced by having various nutrient management sub-zones with different requirements for nitrogen loss reductions after 2040. From my discussions with some of our clients, it is these aspects of PC 7 that introduce a feeling of hopelessness and the risk of splitting the community when we need a sense of togetherness.
11. I therefore support the following changes to the Waimakariri Sub-region components of PC 7 as notified:
  - a. Removing the percentage reductions from 2050 and beyond in Table 8-9; and

- b. Deleting the nutrient management sub-zones.
12. I also support the Next Generation Farmers Trust's request to establish a partnership between the community and Environment Canterbury to work together to understand better the trends in water quality to set realistic targets beyond 2040, and to find a way where the water quality objectives can be achieved while keeping most, if not all, farming operations financially viable.

Richard Nortje

For Rangvet Ltd (Rangiora Vet Centre)

17 July 2020