

IN THE MATTER OF the Resource Management Act 1991 (the 'Act')

AND

IN THE MATTER OF primary submissions on Proposed Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan ('PC7')

BY the Egg Producers Federation of New Zealand (Inc) ('EPFNZ') and the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand (Inc) ('PIANZ')

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF MICHAEL BROOKS

2 OCTOBER 2020

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 My full name is Michael Brooks. I am the executive director of the Egg Producers Federation New Zealand (EPFNZ) and the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand (PIANZ).
- 1.2 This supplementary statement of evidence is to outline PIANZ and EPFNZ's operations in the Canterbury Region and support submissions lodged by EPFNZ and PIANZ on the Proposed Plan Change 7 ('PC7') to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (the 'LWRP').

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The NZ poultry industry encompasses layer hens, poultry (chicken, turkey, duck) meat and breeding and hatchery operations. The Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand (PIANZ) and the Egg Producers Federation of New Zealand (EPFNZ) are the trade associations representing the wider NZ poultry industry.

3.0 INDUSTRY FOOTPRINT

- 3.1 The region covered by the Canterbury Regional Council has 7 turkey farms or 100% of the national turkey flock ; 30 layer farms which are 19% of the national layer flock ; 42 meat chicken farms which is 29% of the national flock, 2 rearer farms or 10% of the rearing industry and 8 breeding/ hatchery farms or 13% of the sector. The region is thus an important element of the national poultry industry.

4.0 CONSUMPTION

- 4.1 Egg consumption in NZ is 246 eggs per person per year and chicken meat is NZ's number one source of meat protein and has been since 2001. New Zealanders consume 44 kilogrammes per person per year of chicken meat and 45.7Kgs of poultry meat.
- 4.2 Market factors are seeing consumer demand for free range meat chicken and move to free range and barn for eggs. Government policy requires that farmers no longer raise layer hens in cages from 2022 and supermarket policy is to no longer sell colony cage eggs from 2025/26.

5.0 DEFINITIONS OF SYSTEMS

- 5.1 **Free Range** – meat or layers mean a housed in a barn with access to an outdoor area. Codes of welfare set standards for indoor up to 34kgs per metre squared for meat chickens and up to 9 hens per square metre for layer hens.

The maximum outdoor stocking density for layers is 2,500 hens per hectare. The outdoor stocking density for meat chickens is 1.5 times the area of the shed and for both there are requirements for access to the outdoors during daylight hours.

Depending on size of shed and flock, e.g. above 5,000 hens' environmental factors are computer controlled.

- 5.2 **Barn** – meat chicken or layers (marketed in egg industry as “cage free”) housed in a barn without access to the outdoors. Indoor stocking density for layer is 7 birds per sq. metre. Meat chickens up to a maximum of 38 kgs per sq. metre. Barns for layers may include multi - tier aviaries.
- 5.3 **Current cages** – an enclosure constructed of metal with 3-7 birds and no perches, nets, or scratch pads. Stocking density must be more than 550 sq. centimetres per bird. Environmental factors are computer controlled.
- 5.4 **Colony cages** - have between 20-60 hens with a minimum stocking density of 750 sq. centimetres per bird. They must have perches, a nesting area, and a scratch pad. Environmental factors are computer controlled.
- 5.5 **Hatchery** – a facility in which fertile eggs are incubated and hatched in controlled environment cabinets. The growth of the poultry meat and egg industry requires the ongoing development of hatchery sites to meet demand.
- 5.6 **Meat breeder farm** - farms raise grandparent and parent stock to produce the meat chickens that are sold to consumers. Stocking densities are between 7- 9 hens per square metre.

6.0 ENVIRONMENT

- 6.1 Meat chicken farms and larger layer farms (>5,000 hens) have a computer-controlled environment governing feed, water, heating, cooling, and air flow.
- 6.2 Meat chicken farm litter (consisting of animal waste and wood chips) is sold as fertiliser and is a popular source of fertilizer for horticulture and pasture.
- 6.3 Larger scale layer farms have belts below cages or living areas to capture and remove animal waste which is also popular as a source of fertilizer.

Michael Brooks
Executive Director
PIANZ / EPFNZ

Dated: 2 October September 2020