

PC7 Hearing

1. (First Photo) Good morning. My name is Geoff Spark and I am a third generation dairy farmer and with my wife Rochelle, and our three children, we farm 800ha in the Waimakariri District including two dairy farms, a beef farm and supporting blocks for silage and grazing. We employ up to 15 people.
2. We support the WIL Solutions Package as we believe achievable reductions in nitrate leaching from land-use activities, catchment mitigation such as Targeted Stream Augmentation, Managed Aquifer recharge, and monitoring to track progress and enable continuing responses, will be more effective and sustainable at improving water quality and prioritising health of fresh water.
3. Our presentation however does not focus on the technical aspects of PC7. Will leave this to the experts.
4. Our focus today is largely about how we believe our farm is already contributing to Te Mana O Te Wai, particularly the aspect of Te Mana O Te Wai that is the health needs of people, and the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well being. We are doing this through opening up our farm for community events such as Oxman Multisport Race and the Canterbury Primary Schools triathlon. Via giving access to our farm and irrigation storage lake we also support other public good organisations including local fire brigades, Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Charity, Church Groups and sports clubs.
5. Our ability to support our wider community hinges on us being able to see certainty for our future. From certainty and confidence that we have a future pathway, further investment in our farm businesses will be encouraged. Also, as I am outlining today, from this certainty and confidence, the wider community benefits.

6. Oxman (see photos and talk to them)

18 months ago, I received a call from John Newsom, Head Coach of the Canterbury Triathlon Club. I hear you have a lake on your farm – could I come and see it?..... Had to leave Lake Pegasus due to water quality issues

Oxman Half Ironman

400 athletes, predominantly urban

Canterbury Primary Schools Triathlon next week expecting 800 children on farm swimming in lake, running and biking.

WE are open to our farm and our water storage investment being used for public good but we need certainty that we have a future and that is why we support the WIL solutions package as a sustainable way forward.

Thank you

Happy to answer any questions