Submission on proposed ES Southland Water and Land Plan

To: Environment Southland

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From: William David & Julie Ann Smellie

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3rd August 2016 (Request for late submission done in June, when we were first advised of this plan)

Email address not available at present regarding woosh collapse.

We DO wish to be heard in support of our submission.

No 1/

We dispute rule 70( VI) " Stock to be excluded from Bedrock/Hill Country where the land, when measured over a width of 20 metres from the waterbody, has a slope of less than 16 degrees."

We have done due diligence on our farm, and this rule is impractical. Being serious issues with construction, management, safety, and finance would make for unworkable results to prevent stock access to these waterways on our property. We are talking of 860 acres on a very rugged coastal block, on which we run 1750 stock units made up of cattle as a dairy support unit. The ability to fence these areas is practically impossible, and if it was attempted would more likely cause more damage through erosion than Environment Southland would like, as well as causing unnecessary damage by confinement in causeway areas.

Running this amount of stock units in the area of concern, - it is not intensively grazed and there is minimal damage to vegetation.

E.g. tussocks not eaten, flaxes still robust, damage to banks minimal and all water courses go straight out to Foveaux Strait.
This rule is "one size fits all" and is not acceptable in our situation.

No 2/
Rule 32 of the RMA Act has not been investigated enough in this plan. -- Costs against benefits.

The alternative for us is to close down the farming operation of 860 acres, and be compensated, both for the farming loss, plus loss of opportunity.

No 3/
When will Environment Southland bring Urban water qualities up to the same expected quality of Rural areas? The hot spots identified on ES's maps seem to be immediately downstream from the major urban areas. E.g. Gore, Winton, Invercargill and other towns.

This plan, along with Rule 13, needs to be dismantled and buried for good.