We are fifth generation farmers on our 240hectare block located in Central Southland. We run a 140hectare sheep farm and 100 hectare dairy farm. We strive for best farm practice that will sustain our business, encourage another generation onto the land, protect the environment and the business that we are passionate about.

We have concerns on the short and long term outcome of the proposed Land and Water Plan from Environment Southland and the effect it will have on the sustainability of our business and the future of farming in our province. The way we currently farm is within the boundaries of the guidelines of Environment Southland in the Land and Water Plan. One of our concerns is for the unknown ongoing legislation that Environment Southland may implement that have not yet been outlined in any plan.

We believe aspects of the Land and Water proposal have merit. However there are areas of great concern in the rural farming community that we hope Environment Southland will respect and further discuss from the submissions before implementing anything that will have a severe impact on the agricultural industry.

We hope that Environment Southland will respect our voice and take on our concerns via this letter format.

- We are concerned about the effect that this proposal will have on the value of our land and the consequences of a reduction in our equity.
- Will the financial cost of the FMP and continued monitoring of the environment required by the farmer be paid for from our already struggling bank accounts?
- The financial cost of ongoing consents.
- Can we have confidence with the accuracy of the Physiographic Zones or is more research required.
- The stipulated winter grazing areas unfairly targets farmers with scale. Is a percentage of total land area a simpler and fairer way of doing this?
- Concerns over the consequence of buffer zones. These appear to be impractical. For example the very wet weather conditions that the province has experienced during the month of July will have no mercy for a buffer zone.
• We do not disagree that there are certain times of the year that stock should not be allowed access to water ways. Water ways that are fenced off with strict cultivation rules will encourage bank erosion, re growth of gorse, broom, ragwort and other pest weeds.

Not all of the above are specific to our business and how we farm however we are concerned for farming and the direction that Environment Southland is taking it. We do not disagree with the overall objective of the Land and Water Plan and that is to protect our environment. We believe that policy and rulings in the document appear to be heavy handed.

We do not wish to verbally partake in any hearings. We await the outcome of the next stage of the Land and Water Plan with interest.

Sincerely

Bruce and Susan Allison

Allison Family Farms Ltd

Drummond Rd 3

Otautau 9683