

Before the Southland Regional Council
In the matter of Southland Water and Land Plan

Statement of Blair William Whyte

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Contact for service

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Rule 60 states that you may build a dam wall 4m or less for building a pond or wetland. In the rule it states that an engineers certification is required for the dam wall. The following photos are from 3 of our 9 ponds, all of which I have built. The cost for the certification of the wall for the first pond shown, would be in excess of \$1000, what improvement in water quality would spending this money make? I think we should be encouraging people to put ponds in as sediment traps and increasing the cost will only discourage this.











Rule 25 states that cultivation on sloping ground is restricted to 20 degrees, this is not great enough and should be increased to 25 degrees or be averaged over the ground that is to be cultivated. We currently have a harvester that is able to harvest ground over 20 degrees and to leave parts of the paddock out would allow for weeds to grow. It also means we are unable to get the full potential out of that specific piece of land meaning that we would have to double our intensity on the rest of the paddock to make up for the ground that isn't used. By stopping us cultivating small pieces of land over 20 degrees how does this effect the water quality?

The Following pictures show
paddocks on our farm which have
slopes of over 20 degrees....









Rule 14 states that no fertiliser is allowed to be applied to waterways.

This is hard to avoid when top dressing using a helicopter or aeroplane. Some lenience should be put towards aerial top dressing.

Rule 23, intensive winter grazing states that that we are required to put in a management plan to show what our intentions are for each paddock on the farm during this period. A management plan shouldn't be required as situations change due to weather conditions and what ground is to be grazed.

The requirement to map all tile drains for intensive winter grazing is a time and money issue, we can understand the mapping of new drains is appropriate but we cant understand how this will improve water quality.

Something else we need is a definition of the term lake, as 100m setback from a large duckpond is too much.





On our property we farm approximately 1000ha as one land holding. Only being able to put 50ha of winter crop in isn't appropriate for the amount of stock we need to winter. The Ha of winter cropping allowed should be based upon the percentage of land holding. If this does not apply we will be forced to add huge amounts of supplements and have a more intensive cropping regime using more fertilisers to produce bigger tonnages of crop to get our stock through the winter. Also with winter grazing on sloping ground why is the limit at 20 degrees, if you are going to limit us to 20 degrees once again we are going to intensively graze flatter ground. Ground over 20 degrees usually grows a lesser crop and will be less intensively grazed therefore having a lower stocking rate. It is important to state that stock do better when more spread out over the winter.

Rule 20 states that we require a farm management plan, too much detail is required in these as our farming plans change daily due to weather conditions, buying in store stock and how much feed is available

It also requires a nutrient budget. This is unable to be done on a mixed farming operation such as ours as even the overseer farm nutrient budget doesn't work.

Rule 25: discharge of agricultural effluent to land, only 1 feed lot per land holding. On our land holding we have 2 wintering sheds and they are over 4km apart. The wintering sheds are situated as to the most economical place to put silage in the pit from surrounding paddocks and also allows us to spread the effluent over a bigger area. the rule to only have one per land holding should be changed to take into account the size of the land holding or the distance between wintering pads

Rule 11: Discharge of vertebrae pest control poisons

We oppose the use of aerial application of 1080 poison as control over drop zone and leaching into waterways is uncontrollable.

The following culvert pipes are located on our farm and are over 1.2m, rule 59 states that the maximum culvert pipe diameter is 1.2m unless you get a resource consent which comes at an extra cost.





1.2Meters

The culvert pipe shown is 1.2 meters and regularly cant handle the flow of water meaning that the water regularly breaks out of channel, we are looking t replace this with a 1.5-1.8meter pipe to stop this from happening but with the new rules we will need a resource consent adding extra cost. What improvement to water quality will this rule make?



Extra: Why are town residents and business premises not required to have a 25000L water tank to store water and to stop runoff from heavy rains into our rivers. All new houses and buildings need this and all existing houses should have these by 2020.