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My name is Grahame Stewart and I have lived on the farming property at Mokoreta for the past 50 years.

As a child I would catch trout, eels and see an abundance of fresh water crayfish and minnows in the creek that runs through the property from the Caitlin's Forest.

I've watched my nieces and nephews over the years continue to catch and observe the same.

In our day to day farming practices we have always endeavoured to care for the environment.

For example, if I shift a mob of cattle to another paddock they may stop at the creek for a drink.

They only ever stand on the bank to drink and then walk over the culvert or bridge. I never see them stand in the water to drink.

When I wean the cows and calves I plan ahead and shut up feed ~~2-3~~ weeks beforehand in suitable dryer paddocks to avoid pasture damage. I also wait for suitable dry weather to avoid damage.

The cows and calves are looked at everyday and I have never seen them standing in the waterways.

I'm also very passionate about my farming practices and align myself with ANZCO foods philosophy regarding environmental stewardship. The cattle are grazed on the pastures during summer months and then they are housed in sheds during the wet winter months.

Today I still observe an abundance of fish life in our waterways. No different to what existed over 45 years ago.

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WATER

In 1979 we purchased a part of our farm which is in Otago, 195 ha of which 80ha was in massive gorse, 3 to 6 meters tall.

In 2013 we purchased a block of 81 ha, the worst waterways being 2m wide, 1m deep and completely covered in gorse.

Excessive rainfall in a short period of time is a major problem for us, like the afternoon we had in about 1 hour, 153mm of rain in our raingauge out the middle of the farm and about 3km away at our house there was no rain at all.

I often wonder if nitrogen in the water is quite often naturally produced by the plants grown on the farm, clover's etc as nitrogen fertiliser is very seldom sown on this property.

I took the Watercare laboratory reports into ES early in June where they photocopied them, to see if someone could explain the results to me, but after several phone calls I still have no information on whether the results are good or bad, a rapid service from ES, perhaps I wasn't paying them enough. The testing cost \$451.98.

In the 1950's we were taught that water only had to run over gravel or rocks for 25 meters in the sunlight and it would be pure, we even had neighbours that built a concrete race and half filled it with gravel and run the waterway over it for their house water supply. I would much rather see our animals drinking clean, fresh, running water from our waterways that I would drink than green stagnant water from dirty troughs that the ducks and seagulls had been playing in like some animals have to drink.

As for sheep and beef cattle standing in waterways I have never seen it happening on this property, they will go for a drink, or cross the waterway but they don't stand in it as I know dairy cattle will do if they are allowed too.

Straightening or repairing waterways as our forefathers did definitely reduces scouring, soil erosion and contamination and as proven, these waterways still contain trout, eels and other very important waterway water life. It also makes the farm much easier to manage if you can get some straighter lines when you are working in a paddock. I see it as very important that we are allowed to look after our waterways responsibly ourselves when necessary as we have done in the past without the expense, trouble and time wasting delays of having to apply and wait for permission to do these repairs when sometimes they are urgent and also having to pay several hundred dollars for the

privilege of getting permission when we have been doing this at our own expense for over 50 years.

Very little of our waterways are fenced and I stress that I think they should stay that way, as what is fenced off scours, the banks, fences and ornamental trees fall in and heavy contamination occurs to the water. If waterways were fenced we would very soon have major crops of gorse and broom requiring spraying which would contaminate the waterways even further.

Sheep and beef farmers should be exempted from fencing waterways.

All of our recent tile drains are locatable as we mark the ends with reflective marker pegs.

Our wild deer kill tally has risen since we sent in our submission.

The wild pigs have been out again and started rooting up another young paddock next to the DOC land native forest, there are no grass grubs or porina in this paddock either, only a healthy worm population.

Once again I say it's impossible to make a long term farm plan with these wild animals changing our landscape so often.

As NZ develops, wider roads, more cars, more heavy traffic, logging traffic, more gravel put on the roads and in heavy rain there is considerable runoff and much contamination goes into the waterways for which farmers get blamed. Sealed roads and gravel roads both contribute to this contamination.

It appears that the major contamination emphasis thinking is on the winter time feeding off of crops on cultivated land and the supposed runoff this contributes to our waterways, but a heavy rainfall of 40.9 mm over a 24 hour period as we had on the 13th of June had dirty, very contaminated, liquid containing sheep feces, urine and muddy rain water running off the strip- grazing blocks on hilly land that some farmers use as a method of wintering their sheep. There is no grass left on these breaks to hold the contaminants on the block as it is all eaten. It is not our method of wintering our sheep.

With the extreme pressure this scheme is putting on farmers to comply with the proposed new rules, it is no wonder we have more depression and suicides in this country, most farmers are already doing their best to be clean green farmers, contamination of waterways comes from all sectors of the country.

We consider ourselves to be good careful conservationists, we don't like seeing our valuable soil going down the waterway.