

Hi and thanks for the opportunity to speak on our submissions. My name is Fred Sutherland and my wife Jill and I farm in partnership in the Blackhills in the Waikaka/North Chatton area. We farm sheep and beef on 385 Ha of Bedrock Hill Country and Oxidising soils. As this is not exact science we will have to take your word for that !!

Rule 20 – we need to know how 2 physiographic zones on one property are going to affect our management plan. In our operation the decision of future cultivation for crop and brassicas are made in the spring where we target poorer performing paddocks. Is this all going to be extra expenditure for more documentation? Any documents I have viewed have given no indication of financial cost of this plan.

Rule 23 – The idea of limiting a property to 50 Ha of crop. This is totally unrealistic, as this ruling could alter the whole dimensions of your operation, including financially !! Suggest that this be governed on a percentage of the property i.e larger property, more stock, extra Hectares required !! Some of the definitions of this document are a bit vague and appear not to consider the outcomes !!

Intensive grazing, who defines what is too intensive? Many have a different comprehension of intensity.

The 20 degree rule needs to be out to 25 degrees. Typical of our rolling country many slopes are greater than 20 but sometimes only a segment of the paddock. Does this situation eliminate cultivation or do we leave parts of the paddock unworked ? I suggest the previous plough line would be a good gauge for future cultivation in this type of country. Back in the day, the team of draughts couldn't go too steep ☺ I do agree with your ruling on limiting cultivation to 700 metres above sea level ,

2 Cultivating near a lake is a curly one. Apparently our duckpond will be classed as a lake and cultivation within 100 metres will be prohibited . I challenge any of you to come water ski on our lake. I suggest you bring your own health and safety plan .

These lakes/ponds were created to act as a sediment trap and provide a habitat to encourage bird life. A buffer area around them and plantings of selected species to provide for birds and bees. Often after heavy rain the ponds can appear murky but the streams continue clear. Two of the ponds

812 Blackhills Rd.

Submitter No: 787

Submitter Name:

Sutherland Richard

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have dams which I believe are going to require testing. I fail to see the need and at whose expense?

Our future plan is to have all our waterways fenced, but all this comes at a price, with fencing, as well as in many cases a reticulated water system is required for stock. Another major concern is, as we see more of these areas fenced, ungrazed and eventually covered in weeds, are we going to experience more chemicals in our water ways as broad use of herbicide's are used for weed control within those fenced off areas.

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With our tile drains, most are collecting water from springs that are appearing above the ground, so some of the contaminants may not be as high as one would think. Mole ploughing is being used to bring water to the pipes, so the land is a lot drier than previous to drainage work. After heavy rainfall our paddocks that are drained appear to handle it a lot better and we don't have the same runoff. After continuous rain these tiles are running into the streams and appear crystal clear, to me that means a lot of the contaminants are being filtered in the process. We have one spring that runs from the top of our property and provides excellent water for stock 12 Months of the year.

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As we farm at the head of the watershed, if we were to test all 3 creeks as they exit our property and all tested below the requirements set, should we have to change any of our farming practices ????

Referring to this plan, I agree that things have to change. We are farming in 2017 not last century. Providing we see our fellow urban friends contributing towards cleaner water too. So much of this plan falls back on the farming sector, keep in mind all those soap suds from cleaning cars etc in towns. I assume it joins the stormwater and continues to our rivers? Are all Southland sewage schemes performing at 100 % ???

We are not against rates increasing providing it's for the right reasons and targets those areas that need improving. These amendments need to be across all of Southland as we are one province and we all want future generations to enjoy farming and recreation in this wonderful piece of paradise. We have heard it said we want our waterways back to the way they were when we were kids. Maybe our parents put us at risk with all that time spent bathing in the rivers as a kid in unknown E.coli levels.

To bring a sweeping plan in like this without the exact science and unknown economic repercussions will be a very dangerous thing!!