

10 May 2017.

To whom it may concern.

I am a Gore based fishing guide who spends a lot of time on numerous rivers around Eastern Southland. Among the rivers that I regularly fish is the Waimea Stream, including the property owned by the Welsh family at Waimea Valley Road. On the many visits to this farm over the past decade or more I have never seen a sheep, dead or alive in the water. The stop-banks that are in place must stop almost all runoff of fertiliser and animal waste from entering the stream. There is no doubt that cattle need to be kept out of all waterways. I say this as an ex dairy farmer, who has always had an interest in the environment. However fencing off the Waimea Stream to keep sheep off the banks would be impractical and achieve very little. This family are in my opinion very good stewards of the land that they farm.

It seems to me that rather than penalise good farming practitioners, who are by far the majority, there should be stiffer penalties for those who deliberately cause pollution in our waterways.

It also appears to me as a regular user of local rivers that quantity [water flow] is a bigger problem than water quality. Over the past few years I have noticed that a number of our smaller streams are running very low in summer. The Otamita Stream where it runs under Highway 96 has been very close to nil flow and the Waimea Stream has also run extremely low over the last couple of years. This in my opinion has occurred since the boom in dairy farming and the abstraction of vast amounts of water and has far reaching ramifications including algal growth through low flows.

Yours Sincerely

Barry Perkins.

86A Wentworth Street.

Gore