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Marshall, A & K
& Buckingham, G

- My name is Allan Marshall, this is my wife Kathryn
- We live in Waikawa Valley and farm Glenfern. A property of 943 hectares with 820 effective.
- I'm the fourth generation of Marshalls to farm Glenfern, and we would like to see the fifth generation be able to farm profitably and environmentally sustainably, here as well.
- We are active members of our community, previous and present organisations include Young Farmers, Plunket, Playcentre, Tokanui Home and School, I served 12 years on the Tokanui School Board of Trustees, and we have both coached various sports teams our family have been involved in and served on various committees
- I am a member of and a past chairman of the South Coast Discussion Group
- We are also members of the Waikawa River Catchment Group.
- We have completed a Farm Focus Plan, which we refer to when planning and planting winter crops. We have also completed and held a field day to promote the Land and Environment Planning level 2. Both of the plans- level 1 and 2 were completed with input from the Land Sustainability team. It was when we started doing this we actually measured and realised we have 48kms of water ways on our property. In my time of farming I have changed my farming practise, from a very intensive mob grazing on small blocks, where every break was taken down to 500kgs a hectare of cover, and on a wet day the break was muddy where now I farm with the intention of not making mud, the sheep are on a mix of 2,3 or 4 day breaks, depending on the paddock size and if the weather goes to plan. Always with the intention of leaving covers of 800kg per hectare to avoid runoff so I don't lose any nutrients applied. We have reduced our stocking rate by 8% which has resulted in our stock performance increasing by 20%. When I started farming 35 years ago the Waikawa River was eroding its way across my paddocks. Several stabilisation attempts were made to slow the erosion, and it became apparent that the best way to control this was with Riparian planting. This was when I first had any real contact with the River Management team at Environment Southland. This lead to a meeting with Gary Morgan, since then they (Nathan Cruckshank and Karl Ericson) have been a wealth of information and brilliant members of our extended farming team. In the last 20 years we have had a lot of positive

feedback from them. In December 2016 we felt privileged to be hosting a bus load of Fresh Water Science Delegates, viewing our sediment traps and riparian plantings.

Point 1

- As a farming entity we have already given up over 100 hectares of our land that is bush or wetland, with the introduction of the Resource Management Act, we received no compensation for this. We may never have been going to farm this land but now we don't have a choice.

Point 2

- The Waikawa River is in a good state and has remnant forest on long lengths of its banks and as a Catchment Group we have had a restoration plan prepared in 2007. Landowners involved are buying into it and we feel we are being lumped into the same basket as everyone else, who might not have been as pro-active as our Catchment Group

Point 3

- The Waikawa catchment is a young catchment in the terms of development and that it has Native trees along its banks as opposed to the main rivers of Southland

Point 4

- As a council you need to place more emphasis on catchments and Catchment groups so that you can educate and sort problems at the source, rather than with a blanket approach. We have already given up so much and have been working towards enhancing our rivers and streams, and with the all of Southland blanket approach we receive nothing but more rules and regulations.

Point 5

- As Farmers we are working with nature every day, yet our conservation of resources is un-recognised because we are not DOC. We are treated like vandals of the estate, which is very unfair when you see what we have saved for our future generations. We have vast thracks of native forest and numerous stands of Kowhai which could have been destroyed if we weren't prepared to recognise it for it's value in its current state.

Rule 14

- Good healthy grass is an effective riparian plant and we should be able to maintain it in good health so that it can uptake nutrients

Rule 20

- We oppose this as most farming is done on a stock unit per hectare basis, so the 20 hectare rule should be reduced to 1 hectare as it is just discrimination as it stands

Rule 23

- We oppose. The Land Sustainability Team have been publishing good practise guide lines that if followed negate the need for this rule.

Rule 25

- We oppose this rule. It puts a bigger loading on the heavy country and lots of paddocks can have a small area with 20% of slope that is not near a waterway. When you start going around bits in the middle of a paddock you can make working them more difficult.

Rule 35

- Amend. Feed pads are a great way to get cattle off heavy flat country -So why are you trying to restrict them when you want the stock off paddocks? When the run off is controlled and managed, feed pads are a very good option

Rule 36

- Amend. If wash water is not allowed to pond, contaminants will end in waterways. Allowing wash water to pond lets any sediment settle and avoids runoff, keeping the nutrients trapped.

Rule 40

- Amend. As Farmers we should be able to build the stack to suit it's end use

Rule 44

- We supported rule 44 as we have had neighbours offal holes dug closer to our house than theirs, so not being allowed to have them within 300 metres of a boundary fence was a good idea.

Rule 49

- We agree with the amendment to this rule. Catching run off is no different to putting roof water in a tank. Catching surface run off for future use makes good conservation sense, rather than drilling a hole to lift water

Rule 59

- Amend. Well constructed culverts are an essential part of most farms. For safety reason there should be a height to width ratio as a guideline for construction.

Rule 60

- Amend. Dams and sediment traps are a very good way to keep nutrients on farm. We invest a lot of money in fertiliser so to catch run off in sediment traps, just make sense. Sediment traps at the bottom of swales should be encouraged.

Rule 70

- We oppose. This rule has some merit but just aims too high for too short a time frame. The Land Sustainability team have been doing a great job here getting people to save creek margins and swales for last bite grazing as you finish a paddock and according to the Land and Water Aotearoa the water testing in Southland over the last 5 years shows we are holding the line which is a very positive step and should actually be recognised.

The Land Sustainability Team should have been given more input into the proposed plan, as they have a practical understanding of what is working and what is not. They have an ability to get alongside people and point them towards good practise. We don't believe that Environment Southland do enough with the Land Sustainability team. They do so much positive on-farm

work, but the biggest headlines are always from the compliance side of the council. This is seen as negative publicity by the farming community which hinders the Land Sustainability Team. The negativity and anxiety created by the proposed 2020 Water and Land plan, will not be felt by the Council but by the Land Sustainability Team.

People farming within the rules should not have to have consents as consents just clog the system. Rules are continuously being put in place because Environment Southland have lost the ability to communicate and educate, so they just make rules. There are no learnings from rules.

For the proposed plan to work you need buy in from all the stake holders. We are trying but from Friday's paper a major stakeholder, the Invercargill City Council, is dragging the chain. For this plan to work we all need to move forward together

As Sheep Farmers since 1990, our land has already been reduced by 4.1 million hectares to other land uses or retirement, but through motivation, education and technology we have maintained the same tonnage of product to market. If we are made to go smaller we lose our ability to be an industry with enough volume to make advances.