

Good afternoon . I am Chris Dillon, I farm a mixed cropping operation at Ardlussa, on the banks of the Mataura River, Co representing is Sean Wilkins. Sean farms at Wendonside. (phyz MAP). Zoe McCormack from Landpro is the groups reasource management planner and today we represent the Balfour Wendonside & Waikaia Group.

This group was born out of frustration after these " Physiographic Zones "were included in the land and water plan. The 123 people in this group all farm land that falls within the so called "Old Mataura" Physiographic Zone.

For those who don't know this area of Northern Southland, Balfour is on the Waimea plains, and Wendonside/Waikaia are known as Waikaia Plains. These are large areas of flat land comprising a diverse mix of Sheep, Beef, Deer, Dairy, Dairy support, Arable and Horticulture. Most Farms have more than one "Physiographic Zone" and more than one enterprise. (except dairy, only 2% of zone).

### 1. Physiographs

This "Old Mataura Zone" has Alienated farmers.

Fact is that its characteristics are very similar to 5 other zones, but is being singled out and treated differently.

S42a report does not address the many submitters concerns around the words "strongly discourage" stating it would "constitute a weakening of the policy position". Policy needs to be based on good science.

These zones should never have been put in the plan. It has complicated the entire process. Sitting outside the plan, once ground truthed they may be useful in informing the limit setting process.

Being Zoned as "Old Mataura" has affected our land values. This once very desirable farming community has now been tainted as a bad area.

Pz's are a conceptual risk based model that is not linked to downstream effects. They fail to reflect the current water quality state and trend.

S42a acknowledges the situation where more than one Pz is located on a landholding could be improved! Physiographs seek to "Control land use". This in fact protects existing dairy farms while restricting land use change on other farms.

As the farmers of this zone what the model would have you believe, compared to what we see as the people working this land every day, just doesn't align. Balfour and Wendonside soil and drainage types are completely different.

Balfour in my opinion is similar to central plains or gleyed.

Wendonside has a pan and a complex deep groundwater zone that even ES scientists are unsure about.

This group recommends removing all Physiographic Zones from the plan.

Submitter No: 47

Submitter Name:

Balfour, Wairarapa  
Wairarapa Group

Date Received: 13 / 9 /17

## 2. Economic and social affects.

This group are disappointed that ES failed the farming community by not ensuring the economic study was completed & made public prior to the plan being notified.

Section 32 (of RMA) ^required an evaluation to be prepared prior to the notification (of the plan) and particular regard given to it when decision to notify the pSWLP. ES failed to comply with our countries legislation by not meeting this obligation. No regard to the economic study was taken when staff wrote the plan! They couldn't as it didn't exist!

(released april 2017)

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The Southland economy is reliant on agriculture. The implementation of this plan in its current form will have significant financial impact on the agricultural sector. ES has obligations under the RMA to ensure the financial sustainability of southland.

We need to all work together to achieve better Environmental, Economic and Social outcome for southland. This group is afraid of being regulated out of operating financially sustainable businesses.