

## 52-VRIES-Mr Ferdinand Vries

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**Public Hearing** I DO wish to be heard in support of my submission; and if so,

**Trade Competition** I COULD NOT gain an advantage in Trade Competition through this submission; or

**Joint Hearing** I would be prepared to consider presenting your submission in a joint case with others making a similar submission at any hearing

Submission ID	<a href="#">SWLP-62</a>
Provision No.	Please complete this section first
Submission ID	<a href="#">SWLP-63</a>
Provision No.	Rule 38
Provision Name	Animal and vegetative waste
Decision sought	Removal of clause (d)(iv) from 1 May to 30 September in any year  from RULE38:ANIMAL AND VEGETATIVE WASTE

Reasons	<p>The current proposal to exclude months(01 May to 30 September) when we can discharge solid animal waste poses many problems for us as a business and we also feel it has the possibility to be detrimental to the environment.</p> <p>In our location, June and July can be quite dry.Under the proposed new ruling it takes away the opportunity for us to prepare ourselves for calving season.Being able to irrigate some amount of effluent or wintering barn manure during this period also means we have ample storage for August and September which are often the wettest and due to calving, busiest months.</p> <p>If all farmers are restricted by dates as opposed to soil moisture levels then there will be a massive influx of effluent being applied in a more condensed manner and time frame.We have had proof of this by discussions with other farmers including people farming in european countries where similar restrictions apply.The restricted time frame means that every farmer goes out basically at the same time to apply as much effluent as possible regardless of soil moisture levels.The environmental impact is so big that most locals don't even venture out for the first two weeks of "Effluent Open Season" as the pollution levels on the roads not to mention the smell is just horrendous.</p> <p>When we initially built our wintering barn 3 years ago, it was equally for financial and environmental/animal welfare improvement.We take immense pride in the improvement it has allowed us to make on our farm in so many areas.2014-2015 Season we received certification from Fonterra for having one of the lowest nitrogen leaching rates in southland.We find that the barn matter has greatly improved pasture condition with organic matter as opposed to using commercial fertilisers.We have consistently complied to a high level as far as our effluent consent and have received a letter from Environment Southland commending us on our high standard of compliance.</p> <p>Currently we are working with David Moffat from Land Sustainability to look at further ways we can improve our operation whilst protecting and enhancing the farm land.We are far from opposed to the Water and Land Plan and have discussed many times our disappointment with the practices allowed on some farms.We feel that we are a progressive business and strive for constant improvement in our operation and on farm practices.</p> <p>We would be more than happy to install a soil moisture gauge to provide on going records of moisture levels when effluent is applied if it would mean that we could continue to apply throughout the year-depending on soil/weather conditions as opposed to calendar dates.</p>
Support/Oppose	Oppose
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