

**BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COURT
CHRISTCHURCH REGISTRY**

ENV-2016-CHC-014

IN THE MATTER of an appeal under Section 120
Resource Management Act
1991

BETWEEN **SCHRADER MAINS LIMITED**

Appellant

AND **SOUTHLAND REGIONAL
COUNCIL**

Respondent

**BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF
HENDRIKUS JOHANNES MARIA SCHRADER**

**GALLAWAY COOK ALLAN
LAWYERS
DUNEDIN**

Solicitor on record: B Irving
Solicitor to contact: B Irving/C F Hodgson
P O Box 143, Dunedin 9054
Ph: (03) 477 7312
Fax: (03) 477 5564
Email: bridget.irving@gallawaycookallan.co.nz
Email: campbell.hodgson@gallawaycookallan.co.nz

Introduction

1. My full name is Hendrikus Johannes Maria Schrader (“Hank”) I am a director and shareholder of Schrader Mains Limited (“SML”) along with my wife Sandra. SML owns the land subject to this application for resource consent (Badwit Road). The address of the property is 514 Rimu-Seaward Downs Road although access is obtained from Badwit Road.
2. We have been dairying in Southland for 21 years. We moved to Southland in 1993 (from Taranaki) to take on a 50/50 sharemilking job. We own 2 other dairy units within Southland and Clutha, these properties milk up to 900 cows in total. The Southland property operates 350 cows and is located 5 km from Badwit Road. This property is Lower Order Sharemilked by our son Kurt. Our Clutha property of 550 cows (near Tapanui) is operated by a Lower Order Sharemilker, Roland and his family. They have been with us for 10 years. People and supporting their progression within the dairy industry are very important to us.
3. Good environmental management is also very important to us. On each of our existing properties we employ best practice and are always improving and upgrading what we do. To date we have upgraded effluent systems, fenced streams and completed riparian planting. We utilise professional consultants to provide us with advice and guidance on farm improvement and also engage with the Regional Council’s Land Sustainability Team to get their input too. We have had no compliance issues on our properties.

Proposed Conversion

4. In 1998 we leased 33 ha of Badwit Road we then purchased that land in 2007. The balance of the property was purchased in 2010 (dates approximate).

5. When we purchased the original 33 ha one of the first steps we took to improve the farm was to fence off the stream. We sought advice about this from Katrina Robertson. (She is currently a member of the Council's Land Sustainability Team. She worked for DOC then). Since purchasing the balance of the land we have installed drainage, upgraded the stock drinking water system, completed riparian planting, shaped paddocks to fit around existing shelter and regrassed. All this has been completed to improve the productive and environmental performance of the property with the ultimate aim of converting the property. We didn't want to rush in to converting, but rather work towards it.
6. Converting this property allows us to offer an opportunity to our family, or one of our employees. It also allows us to efficiently utilise resources between the home farm and Badwit Road as they are located 5km apart. There is the opportunity to share machinery and some staff between the 2 properties which improves efficiency and ultimately profitability. This has been carefully thought through with our long term farm consultant, Mr Robertson, and provides a pathway for succession planning and economic return as compared to the current system on Badwit Road.
7. We are aware that the catchment is a sensitive environment. Due to the sensitivities we want to ensure that our farm is run to the highest standard. In order to ensure we achieve the best environmental outcome possible we enlisted the support from Landpro, RD Agritech and Mrs Hunter to help us prepare an application that took into account the sensitivity of the Waituna Catchment. We wanted to put forward a proposal that would help us contribute to improving the environmental outcomes within the catchment.
8. We worked with our advisors to develop a farm system that would improve both the environmental effects of our farming operations,

but also improve the economic return from the land. The farm system we settled on had fewer cows than we originally thought might be possible. But by reducing the intensity of the farm system we were able to ensure it was more sustainable.

9. We are proposing to farm 306 cows on 103 ha (effective). This equates to 2.97 cows per hectare. The majority of stock are to be wintered off farm and out of the catchment with only 90 cows remaining on farm from 1 June to 31 July.
10. We have prepared a thorough conversion and environmental management plan which details management practices we will employ on the farm.
11. The main aspects of the proposal are:
 - (a) Effluent Collection and Storage including a stonetrap, solid collection within a concrete bunker. Liquid effluent will be stored within a 930m² storage pond (pond has been sized to include a stand off area). The size of storage provides some extra security and flexibility to avoid the need to apply effluent when soil conditions are not suitable or even marginal.
 - (b) Effluent application will occur via a low rate irrigation system within a maximum application depth of 20mm. There is 93 hectares available for irrigating effluent. Again this provides us with a lot of flexibility to manage the effluent carefully.
 - (c) Farm Environment Plans. It is proposed that the farming operation will be undertaken in accordance with a farm environment plan. This plan sets out all of the operational requirements to ensure that all practicable methods to minimise nutrient losses are employed on the farm. Most of the techniques set out in the Plan are ones we already employ on our other farms. We understand them well and

know that they can be implemented effectively. The plan will be reviewed annually so we can continue to improve our operations as best practice techniques evolve.

12. In preparing the application for consent for the proposed conversion we have continued to seek advice about how to develop a robust and sustainable farm. Our preference has been to develop a good simple system that will be sustainable (economically, environmentally and for both our people and animals) in the long term. Our approach has always been to think things through by talking to the right people, taking time to consider that advice and make sure we do it right.

Proposed Southland Land and Water Plan

13. Since we applied for this consent the Council have notified the proposed Southland Land and Water Plan. We have taken advice about how the proposed plan will affect us, including what activities we could undertake at Badwit Road if we are unable to obtain consent to convert it.
14. Our company's goals at the moment are to expand to milk approximately 1200 cows. Our preference is to do this over 3 separate properties. In our experience dairy farms of around 600 cows are a good manageable size. They can be operated cost effectively from a staff perspective without being so big that staff are under enormous pressure to get milking complete while having enough time to take care of other farm jobs. The balance between milking obligations and other on-farm responsibilities such as maintenance is about right on farms up to 600 cows.
15. If we cannot convert this block we will most likely integrate it into our business in other ways by using it for wintering and growing young stock for the other farms. We have developed a farm system to reflect this which is discussed further by Mr Robertson and Mrs Hunter.

16. Unfortunately the wintering proposal will not provide the same opportunity for Sandra and I to assist one of our children or our other sharemilker into their own property. It will also mean that the land is less productive than it could be.

Hendrikus Johannes Maria Schrader

29 July 2016