

## Expert Conference – Planning – Joint Witness Statement #4

**Topic:** Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan – Southland Regional Council

**Date of conference:** 17 - 19 November 2021

**Venue:** Remote AVL

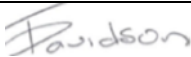



**Facilitator:** Commissioner Anne Leijnen


**Recorder:** Isabelle Harding

### Attendees

- 1 Witnesses who participated and agreed to the content of this Joint Witness Statement (JWS) by signing it on 19 November 2021

### Attachment: Forestry expert conference questions from planners

Name	Employed or engaged by	Signature
Treena Davidson	Nga Rūnanga	
Ailsa Cain	Nga Rūnanga	
Sharon Dines	Wilkins Farming Company Ltd	
Sue Ruston	Ballance Agri-Nutrients Ltd	
Claire Jordan	Aratiatia Livestock Ltd	
Ben Farrell	Southland Fish and Game Council and Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc	
Christine Foster	Beef + Lamb New Zealand	
Jerome Wyeth	Rayonier New Zealand	
Gerard Willis	Fonterra Co-operative Group and DairyNZ Ltd	
Carmen Taylor	Ravensdown Ltd	
Janan Dunning	Gore District Council, Southland District Council, Invercargill District Council (TAs)	
Linda Kirk	Director-General of Conservation	
Jane Whyte	Meridian Energy Ltd	

Peter Wilson	Federated Farmers of New Zealand	
Lauren Maciaszek	Southland Regional Council	
Matthew McCallum-Clark	Southland Regional Council	

### **Environment Court Practice Note**

- 2 All participants confirm that they have read the Environment Court Consolidated Practice Note 2014 and in particular Section 7 (Code of Conduct, Duty to the Court and Evidence of an expert witness) and Appendix 3 – Protocol for Expert Witness Conferences and agree to abide by it.

### **Experts' qualifications and experience**

- 3 These are set out in each expert's Will Say statement.

### **Participants**

- 4 This JWS is limited to those planners that have an interest and took part in the discussion.

### **Attachments to this JWS**

- 5 List of Questions for the Forestry experts.

### **Conference outcomes**

- 6 The background and context relating to the appeal process is set out in the Topic B Overview evidence of Matthew McCallum-Clark
- 7 The Planning conferencing identified a number of technical questions to form the basis of the agenda for the Forestry experts – this is attached.

## **Attachment: To Forestry Experts:**

### **Cultivation definition**

1. What are the practical and operational implications associated with having to undertaking windrowing parallel to contour when the slope is greater than 10 degrees<sup>1</sup>? In what situations may this be unsafe?

### **Stick raking/windrowing**

2. Is stick raking/windrowing any different in terms of risk of sediment loss to other cultivation or slopes above 20 degrees?
3. What are the risks from sediment runoff from stick raking? How significant are these risks compared to other forestry and cultivation activities?
4. What are the most effective measures to mitigate the risk of sediment runoff from stick raking?
5. Are the NES-PF controls for mechanical land preparation (including stick raking) considered to be effective in reducing the risks from sediment runoff?
6. Are there circumstances in the Southland region that justify a more stringent approach than the NES-PF in relation to stick raking?
7. Will application of the control in the NES-PF result in a reduction in sediment loss during stick raking/windrowing relative to what would occur under controls in Rule 25?

### **Critical source areas and setbacks<sup>2</sup>**

8. What are the likely practical implications and costs associated with identifying 'critical source areas'<sup>3</sup> within a plantation forest ( )?
9. How effective are the following measures likely to be in terms of mitigating the risks from erosion and sediment runoff:
  - a. Establishing sediment detention when stick raking is undertaken in identified critical source areas<sup>4</sup>?
  - b. Graduated setbacks for all water bodies based on slope<sup>5</sup>?
10. What are the likely practical and operational implications associated with:
  - a. Establishing sediment detention when stick raking is undertaken in identified critical source areas?
  - b. Graduated setbacks for all water bodies based on slope?

### **Herbicide spraying**

11. What are the risks from sediment runoff associated with herbicide spraying within a plantation forest? How significant are these risks compared to other cultivation activities that physically disturb the soil?
12. What, if any, mitigation measures can be used to manage the risks of sediment runoff from herbicide spraying within a plantation forest?

### **Critical source areas and setbacks<sup>6</sup>**

13. How effective are the following measures likely to be in terms of reducing the risks from erosion and sediment runoff:

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<sup>1</sup> As per paragraph c. in the definition of cultivation in Environment Southland's tracked change relief.

<sup>2</sup> Questions 6 to 8 relevant if Rule 25 applies to stick raking.

<sup>3</sup> As per definition of critical source areas in Environmental Southland's tracked change relief.

<sup>4</sup> As per Environmental Southland's tracked change relief for Rule 25.

<sup>5</sup> As per Environmental Southland's tracked change relief for Rule 25.

<sup>6</sup> Questions 11 and 12 relevant if amendments to the definition of cultivation not accepted.

- a. Establishing sediment detention when herbicide spraying is undertaken in identified critical source areas within a plantation forest<sup>7</sup>?
  - b. Graduated setbacks for herbicide spraying within a plantation forest to all water bodies based on slope<sup>8</sup>?
14. What are the practical and operational implications associated with:
- a. Establishing sediment detention when herbicide spraying is undertaken in critical source areas (as per Environmental Southland's tracked change relief for Rule 25)?
  - b. Graduated setbacks for herbicide spraying all water bodies based on slope (as per Environmental Southland's tracked change relief for Rule 25)?

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<sup>7</sup> As per Environmental Southland's tracked change relief for Rule 25.

<sup>8</sup> As per Environmental Southland's tracked change relief for Rule 25.