

BEFORE THE HEARING PANEL OF SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

In the matter of: Applications for resource consents by WOLDWIDE ONE LIMITED AND WOLDWIDE TWO LIMITED AND WOLDWIDE THREE LIMITED AND WOLDWIDE FOUR LIMITED

Hearing Panel summary by Mid Aparima Catchment Group

2nd October 2019

1. We are Jolene Germann and Edwin Mabonga represent the mid-Aparima Catchment Group. We firstly would like to thank the commissioners for the opportunity to present. Today, we will briefly address the reasons why we support all of the Woldwide applications.

2. The mid-Aparima Catchment Group was formed in May 2016. We are predominately farmers but our membership is open to all community members within our area. Our group fits between the Upper and Lower Aparima Catchment groups, and represents stakeholders from Otautau, north to Wreys Bush Nightcaps Road to the Wreys Bush bridge, encompassing the Bayswater area. We are passionate about where we live and contributing sustainably to our community. We value water quality, as well as the economic, social and cultural progression of our community and the whole of Southland.

- 3. The values of our Catchment Group include:**
 - (a) Improving water quality in the Mid-Aparima catchment area
 - (b) Building relationships within our community – we are in this together
 - (c) To increase awareness and interest around water quality, and interest in local and national policies regarding this
 - (d) To provide credible education, based on science, to promote best practice management
 - (e) To work productively with all other organisations involved with water quality

- 4. The goals of our Catchment Group include:**
 - (a) To have an inclusive group that includes members from all sectors of our community
 - (b) To represent the interests of members of our group to local and national policy makers
 - (c) To build and maintain good working relationships with policy makers and a good reputation amongst the community

- (d) To encourage our members to be leaders with respect to technology adoption and good practice management
- (e) To investigate and improve water quality and environment at a catchment level

5. Our key messages for the panel today are:

- (a) It is important that the decision takes into account the output or the resulting effects of the application, rather than just the input details.
- (b) That the use of technology and proven best management practice to offset potential effects needs to be encouraged and acknowledged.
- (c) Effective capital investment and use of science and technology, as demonstrated by the de Woldes, is something that should be encouraged within our region.
- (d) The proposals will result in a reduction in P, N, sediment and faecal indicator organisms lost to the environment and a concurrent reduction in the resulting concentration of these contaminants in receiving waters. The overall effects on water quality will be positive.
- (e) It is important that a 15 year term is granted given the significant capital investment undertaken.

6. We believe that the applications should be accepted for the following reasons:

- (a) The upgrade and extension of an existing wintering barn to accommodate 625 animals and the construction of two 1050 cow wintering barns will mean that no intensive winter grazing on crop or grazing of stock on pasture over winter will occur at Woldwide One, Two, Four or Five. No fodder crops will be planted and instead direct grass to grass cultivation will be used. Intensive winter grazing outdoors is widely accepted to have a high nutrient and sediment loss; and to cause significant soil damage. The de Woldes have been leaders within our region with off paddock wintering.
- (b) These wintering barns can be used as standoff pads, as well as three additional standoff pads, during inclement weather throughout the season. By being able to stand animals off during cold and wet weather, the risk of nutrient loss and soil damage/erosion is significantly reduced.
- (c) The overall intention of the land use consent under phase two for Woldwide 4 and 5 is to operate at a nitrogen loss level (predicted by Overseer) equal to or less than the nitrogen loss level outputs from the baseline model.
- (d) Specific critical source area good management practises (GMPs) will be implemented to minimise potential phosphorus loss (as well as sediment and microbial losses) via

overland flow from the new lanes and/or culvert crossings that will be installed when incorporating additional land into the current dairy platform. These will include the fencing of all waterways, establishing vegetated riparian margins, contouring lanes to direct runoff to pasture, installing bargeboards on culvert crossings and locating laneways away from waterways. The implementation of these GMPs are not accounted for by Overseer modelling but have been quantified in the application.

- (e) The above practices more than offset the introduction of a relatively small area of land that is not currently milked off and a relatively small increase in total peak cow numbers. As shown by research, there will be less soil erosion and damage, less nutrient and sediment losses. The nutrient budgets show a reduction in nitrogen loss from the current baseline model and the application takes into account the GMP needed to reduce phosphorus loss (as well as sediment and microbial losses) from the current baseline model to the final predicted model.

7. In conclusion

- (a) As a catchment group, we support the submissions from Woldwide as they fit our vision (“to be good stewards of the environment, while maintaining economic sustainability”) and our key value (to improve water quality in the Mid-Aparima catchment area). The de Woldes are actively involved within our catchment group and we consider them to be role models for the Southland community, due to the huge focus that their farming business has on environmental sustainability.

- (b) The proposals will result in a reduction in P, N, sediment and faecal indicator organisms lost to the environment and a concurrent reduction in the resulting concentration of these contaminants in receiving waters. The overall effects on water quality will be positive. Effective capital investment and use of science and technology, as demonstrated by the de Woldes, is something that our catchment group encourages. The de Woldes are at the forefront of using science and technology to reduce their environmental footprint and we believe that this is captured within these applications.

(c) We ask that the hearing accept the application from Woldwide grant all consents that have been applied for. It is important that a 15 year term is granted given the significant capital investment that will be undertaken.