

Verbal comments from Nelson Lindsay 4th July 2023

1. I have learned a lot since beginning this exercise of applying for this resource consent.
2. I now also have a better understanding of the causes of the negative impacts on the environment.
3. I often go for a walk leaving my house down the hill through the dairy farmed paddock before turning up the hill and after at the top turn back to the house. Recently I have been paying greater attention to the clarity of the water. After a major rain event I see water running over the surface through the grass and on to the creek at the bottom. This water is clear.
4. Recently while I was returning from Queenstown I took notice of the amount of winter grazing crop that there was. There had been a moderate rain event and when I crossed the Winton Stream and noticed how brown it was. I asked some other people whether there was more than normal, but was told that it was about the same as other years.
5. During winter grazing cows mix topsoil and water due to their movements. Their effluent can then run straight into the waterways carrying phosphate and nitrogen with it. It is important to note that this is not only a winter grazing problem but also applies during the milking season in adverse weather events.
6. Our cows are in the barn for the winter and produce thousands of cubic metres of effluent which is stored for application during the summer. When we have a barn the economics of keeping the cows off the paddocks during a heavy rain event is huge.
7. I am completely amazed at the process for coming up with an improved system. The cost for the time and the direct costs associated with this puts most people off even starting. We pay for experts to show what we can do to meet the rules. ES then engage experts that we have to pay for who seem to have the agenda to try to prove our experts wrong. We then have to pay to get the 2 lots of experts to understand what we have done so that we are not struck out.
8. We are now here today to see whether the commissioners are willing to grant consent with workable and economic conditions. I believe that if every dairy farmer did what we are doing, or something similar, the environmental problems would certainly decrease. Without a change in both our farming thinking and the position of ES the outcome will be the same.