

**BEFORE THE SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**In the matter** of sections 88 to 115 of the Resource Management Act 1991

**And**

**In the matter** of applications for resource consents by:

**FAWNA FARMS LTD**

Applicant

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**STATEMENT OF SIMEON WARD ON BEHALF OF FAWNA FARMS LIMITED  
8 MARCH 2023**

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## Introduction

1. My name is Simeon Ward and I am a Director of Fawna Farms Limited (FFL).
2. FFL was established in 2022 as a dairy farming equity partnership to purchase a 370.9 hectare dairy farm at Feldwick, Western Southland. FFL is a partnership between two farming families;
  - a. Puketaha Farming Enterprises Limited (Ward family)
  - b. Rednoc Limited (Conder family)

Both shareholders have accumulated significant experience and expertise in the dairy sector.

3. FFL has two directors, representing each of the shareholders;
  - a. Simeon Ward (as shareholder and General Manager of Puketaha Farming Enterprises Limited).
  - b. Ross Conder (as shareholder and Manager of Rednoc Limited).
4. Puketaha Farming Enterprises (PFE) was established in 2008, originally as a partnership between my brother and I. In 2014 our parents also became shareholders. PFE is the holding company through which our family have pursued dairy farming interests in Waikato and Southland. My brother and I have had a lifelong interest in agriculture. Following our studies in agriculture and animal science at Massey University, we then joined forces to work together and progress through the dairy industry.
5. Most recently PFE has used equity partnerships to pursue growth opportunities in the Southland region. We see these as an ideal vehicle by which to provide opportunities for the next generation of dairy farmers. FFL is our most recent initiative in this regard.
6. In addition to our direct farming involvement, PFE has a history of providing advice and expertise to other dairy farming businesses in New Zealand, and overseas. This involvement typically focuses on implementing production systems that are sustainable and replicable for all stakeholders.
7. Rednoc Limited is owned by Ross & Kristy Conder. The Conders have followed the traditional progression pathway within the New Zealand dairy industry, beginning with

farm management in Waikato in 1998, and then progressing through to contract milking in Canterbury in 2012. In 2016 they moved their family to Southland to pursue 50% sharemilking opportunities. Today the Conders are operating equity partners in two dairy farms, FFL at Feldwick, and Ridgevale Farm Limited at Waimahaka.

8. Ross and Kristy's dairying career has benefited from lengthy experience in three of New Zealand's key dairying regions – Waikato, Canterbury, and Southland. This experience has given them exposure to a wide range of different farming practices. Being able to employ a range of techniques and practices is invariably the best way to ensure sustainable outcomes.

### **Existing Operation**

9. FFL is a 370.9 hectare dairy farm and we peak milk 900 Jersey and Jersey Crossbreed cows. The farm was originally converted to dairy farming in 2015. As a more recent conversion in Southland it was completed to a high standard with key infrastructure built in excess of minimum requirements (particularly effluent holding capacity). All waterways are fenced off.
10. The farm is operated by Ross and Kristy Conder as Contract Milkers. Four fulltime staff are employed, and casual staff are engaged to further support operations during busy periods.
11. All staff live on-farm and are actively engaged in the community through the local primary school and a range of other clubs and societies.
12. Although we are only in our first year of operation, we have already made several key changes to improve operations and outcomes;
  - a. Farming Jersey cows (instead of the traditional Friesian breed). Jersey cows are smaller framed, lighter animals. This has reduced the liveweight being farmed and is more appropriate given the range of soil types and contours on the property.
  - b. Individually soil testing all 60 paddocks. This has allowed optimisation of fertiliser applications and has achieved a significant reduction in the volume that has been historically applied.
  - c. Removing fodder beet from the farming system. Fodder beet is a commonly grown winter crop in Southland, favoured because of its higher yield potential.

