INTRODUCTION

1 This statement relates to the topic of **The Consent for the periodic opening of Waituna Lagoon.**

2 A conference meeting was held online.

3 Participants were:

Name	For
Marc Schallenberg	Applicant
Richard Measures	Applicant
John Scandrett	On behalf of submitter – Southern Star Farms
Ash Rabel	Applicant

4 In preparing this statement, the experts have been provided with and have read and understood the Environment Court's Expert Witnesses Code of Conduct (Part 7, Environment Court Practice Note 2014) and Protocol for Expert Witness Conferences (Appendix 3, Environment Court Practice Note 2014) and have been briefed on their responsibilities under these.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5 In preparing for the conferencing the witnesses reviewed (where relevant) the following documents:

(a) The evidence of Mr. Richard Measures and Mr. John Scandeitt,

(b) Technical Review of Conditions for Opening Waituna Lagoon (Robertson et al., 2024).

(c) The consent application

ISSUE 1: [issue]

6 Effects on productive land drainage from changes in lagoon water levels. This issue is the only significant area of overlap between expert evidence from John Scandrett and Richard Measures.

The experts agree that:

(a) Higher lagoon water levels reduce the effectiveness of land drainage network in lower lying properties near the lagoon. Land within 1m above the lagoon water level is strongly affected. There is an impact on land drainage beyond the 1m level, with drain flow being reduced, extending the amount of time for excess water to be drained from the soil following rainfall events.

(b) Mapping the extent of this effect on land >1m above lagoon water level is difficult and would be a very resource intense endeavour. The extent of effect in a given location depends on the capacity of tile drains at that location. Maintenance, size, and density of drains has an impact on this.

(c) Duration and frequency of high lagoon water levels effects the performance of land drainage networks. High lagoon water levels extend the period of time that soil remains waterlogged compared to low lagoon water levels. Different regimes can be compared on the basis of the duration and frequency of higher water levels - refer to table 6 – Summary Statistics, in the Technical Review of Conditions for Opening Waituna Lagoon (Robertson et al., 2024).

There was no disagreement between experts.

24 July 2025

SIGNATURES:

Richard Measures

Ash Rabel

~~[name]~~ Marc Schallenberg

JOHN SCANDRETT

[name]