

BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT
COURT I MUA I TE KOOTI TAIAO
OAOTEAROA

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act
1991

AND of appeals under Clause 14 of the
First Schedule of the Act

BETWEEN **The Terraces**

AND **SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Respondent

SECTION 274 NOTICE

To: The Registrar
Environment
Court
Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch

1. Wilkins Farming Co Ltd (Wilkins Farming) wish to be a party to this proceeding being an appeal against the proposed Southland Land and Water Plan.
2. Wilkins Farming is an entity which has an interest in the proceedings that is greater than the interest that the general public has because it is a large Southland rural landowner and farmer and it is also an entity which made a submission about the subject matter of the proceeding.
3. Wilkins Farming is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308C or 308CA of the Resource Management Act 1991.
4. Wilkins Farming is interested in following Rule 20(a)(iii) – Implementation date change to 2025 not 2019. Wilkins Farming support the relief sought by deleting the date “1 May 2019” and replacing it with “31 December 2025”.
5. Wilkins Farming support this decision as it allows land users, catchment groups and local authorities time to get a better understanding of the impact of certain land use techniques on the environment. The better our understanding the more appropriate and pointed our management can be. To regulate prematurely and inaccurately on unknowns could have irreversible adverse social, economic or environmental impacts. We have not got a conclusive scientific grasp on the relationship between the current environmental state and all current land management practices. We cannot conclusively say the current environmental state relates to current land use activities or historical land use activities or even naturally occurring events until we establish this relationship. The more time we have to establish this relationship, the more accurate will be our understanding. This will allow us to make more appropriate land use regulation and subsequent decisions parallel to improved water quality while minimizing adverse social and economic impacts.

8. Wilkins Farming is interested in following the Rule 25 (a) (iv) Cultivation Slope. We support the relief sought so that “20 degrees” is replaced by “30 degrees”.
9. Wilkins Farming supports the relief because the existing stance is unjustifiably restrictive as it does not allow for flexibility or sensible management discretion to be applied for in a local context. The risks of nutrient loss exist regardless of gradient if a system is not managed appropriately. The gradient is one contributing factor to consider among many and applying this overly restrictive rule will cause perverse outcomes. This will result in a loss in productive land which will limit the winter grazing area for the province, increasing stock concentration elsewhere on the farms. This will create unnecessary cost and compliance while compromising land use options. This could compromise land values when compared to an identical farm in adjacent Otago which does not have such restrictions attached.
10. Wilkins Farming is interested in following the Rule 20(a)(iii)(4) – Setbacks from Waterways 5m. We support the relief sought to amend the setback from 5m to 3m.
11. Wilkins Farming supports the relief because the 5m setback is excessive, it will not have a statistically significant improvement on water quality or reduction in nutrient loss. The 5m setback or 10m corridor is not practical, it is a gross waste of productive farmland for no environmental gain which will create a breeding ground for weeds & pests. These weeds and pests will require further chemical or mechanical management posing further threat to the environment. This rule will limit productivity and increase costs which could ultimately compromise land values. This is land which owners have paid productive value for and then this rule will instantly render the area concerned ‘unproductive’, further eroding capital for no scientific environmental benefit.
12. Wilkins Farming is interested in following the Rule 25 (a)(ii) – Cultivation Set Back. We support the relief sought to amend the set back from 5m to 3m.

13. Wilkins Farming supports the relief because the 5m setback is excessive, it will not have a statistically significant improvement on water quality or reduction in nutrient loss. The 5m setback or 10m corridor is not practical, it is a gross waste of productive farmland for no environmental gain which will create a breeding ground for weeds & pests. These weeds and pests will require further chemical or mechanical management posing further threat to the environment. This rule will limit productivity and increase costs which could ultimately compromise land values. This is land which owners have paid productive value for and then this rule will instantly render the area concerned 'unproductive', further eroding capital for no scientific environmental benefit.

14. Wilkins Farming agrees to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings.

Date: 22-6-18

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