

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER APPOINTED BY  
ENVIRONMENT SOUTHLAND**

**IN THE MATTER**

of an appeal  
pursuant to Clause  
14, Schedule 1 of  
the Resource  
Management Act  
1991 (the **Act**)

**BY**

**TITIPUA LIMITED  
PARTNERSHIP**

**Applicant**

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**BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF STEPHEN KORTEWEG ON BEHALF OF THE  
TITIPUA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP**

**DATED 23 MARCH 2022**

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## **BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF STEPHEN KORTEWEG ON BEHALF OF TITIPUA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP**

**May it please the Court:**

### **Introduction**

1. My name is Stephen Korteweg. My wife Rhonda and I are shareholders of the Titipua Partnership.
2. I (along with my family) have been in the Dairy Industry all of my 40+ years working life. I have spent 4 years cheese making and the rest on the farm production side of the industry while staying actively involved in both community and industry roles.
3. We won the 2001 Kiwi Dairy Farmer of the Year, 2009 Otago Balance Farm Environment Award and 2012 F.B.O.Y to name a few. We have been actively involved in various primary sector organisations including stints as chair of both Federated Farmers Otago and TB free Otago.
4. I was also a founding Director of the current Southern Demonstration Farm.
5. The two farm's we are currently involved with are share milked by my Sons - Blake on Titipua and Mathew on the home farm.
6. Titipua was formed in 2015 between Rhonda and I and James and Nicky Hall. We purchased the existing Titipua Dairy Platform that year. Day to day operation of the farm is undertaken by my son Blake as a 50:50 Sharemilker. We purchased the Schrama Block in October 2020.

### **Reasons for the application**

7. We have now been operating the dairy platform for 7+ years. This has given us a good understanding of the limitations and opportunities that the property presents. We have held consent to milk 600 cows on the existing block but have typically milked 500 cows. The reasons for this are simply because we believe that full 600 cows would be too intensive for the existing platform. Whilst it could be done, it would put us right at the edge of the farm's capabilities from an animal welfare and environmental perspective. Essentially, we like to operate with a bit

more of a buffer so if things don't go quite to plan you have a bit more scope to deal with the things that inevitably crop up in farming.

8. The Schrama block provides us an opportunity to increase the footprint of the platform, and effectively decrease the overall intensity of farm system allowing us to have good scope for managing the environmental effects of our activities, internalise most of our needs and optimise the profitability of the business. It will add some more dry and sheltered areas that will help significantly through wet and cold weather events. Also being able to spread cows over a larger area during wet periods will reduce the risk of pugging and nutrient loss. It gives us more suitable areas for winter crop and grass baleage wintering areas. This will allow us to be able to harvest feed from more nutrient built up areas of the platform (namely the effluent area) and feed it in the lower nutrient areas which will help keep soil nutrient levels more even across the farm.
9. In developing this extension proposal we have sought to 'pull all the levers' to mitigate effects. The detail of this is set out in the Farm Environment Management Plan.
10. The Schrama block ticks a lot of boxes for how we like to run our Dairy Farming operation by giving us the ability better manage the feeding of our cows by being able to spread our animals over a larger area rather than harvesting from one block to then cart it and then feed it out on the milking platform. It will give us a larger area to spread the nutrients over a larger area allowing us to target applications to the areas that need it most based on our nutrient management plan. Overall, we think it will enable us to operate a more sustainable farm both environmentally and economically.

## **Conclusion**

11. We pride ourselves on being good operators, forward thinking and early adopters of science and technology in all aspects of Dairy Farming and all in all would have to say I still enjoy it.

Stephen Korteweg

**Titipua Limited Partnership**

Dated 23 March 2022