

Verbal comments from Carl Lindsay 4th July 2023

I am Carl Lindsay.

1. Dairy farming is part of Southland. It can be done better. To prove that we are here applying for consent for milking dairy cows.
2. I strongly believe that Southland is a beautiful province and I endeavour to leave it in a better shape than when I arrived.
3. As an Environment Southland rate payer and Southlander, I am comforted that ES is challenging us on this submission, making sure that the evidence of a reduction in nutrient leaching is robust. We have gone to great lengths, over and beyond what has typically been done, to provide solutions and to check and double check using the best tools and research available. This has been done to ensure that there will not be any adverse effects on the environment, leaving us in a confident position that the information we are providing is correct.
4. We have been subject to many non-believers who tell us that what we are proposing is not possible and that we should stick to the current farming models. We have been able to see past this negativity and are now here to hopefully have a favourable outcome for both the community and the environment.
5. We purchased the dairy property at Springhills and asked Lowe Environmental to assess the potential for us to have consents granted that would enable us to convert the current dairy sheep infrastructure to enable us to milk dairy cows. With the availability of other properties, it provided us with the ability to expand this opportunity. Thus began the process of creating an in-depth picture of beneficial farming models.
6. We look around the district and see livestock being wintered outside. Most of the farmers with cows outside in winter would prefer to have them indoors in a housing facility. However, what is preventing this is the large capital investment required to erect these facilities. We are excited by this proposal because we are looking to invest in a solution that completely prevents intensive winter grazing, whilst also provides a realistic pathway to provide funding to allow this infrastructure to be built. This is the key – environmental improvements require investment and if there is not the reward the rate of change and improvement will be limited. The reality is farmers will walk away from the land, and the region, unless they have opportunities. Environment Southland have to assist to provide these opportunities.
7. We are proposing to construct two large effluent storage ponds, and a free stall wintering barn to complement the **Existing** facilities of a barn and milking shed. In addition to this we have worked with the submitters Te Ao Mārama to refine proposed mitigation measures to further improve the nutrient retention abilities of the property with riparian planting areas identified and confirmed, along with 5 detention bund sites and proposed sediment traps in all of the main open drains.

8. We also identified a risk area where the main farm lane runs alongside an open drain. We have proposed to construct another lane further from the drain to reduce any leaching directly from the laneway into the waterway and have identified all the culverts as needing modified to eliminate any runoff directly from the culvert into the waterway.
9. The last 14 months have been a very interesting and exciting time for us as we have had the opportunity to develop what we believe is the most effective farming system that we could achieve. I find it exciting because I can combine doing the farming that I love with the advice and input from national guidance on best practice and the environmental experts we have been dealing with throughout this process. I am really looking forward to putting these proposed developments into action and seeing the improvements first hand going forward.
10. Whilst we are enthusiastic and want to make a difference, we need to be careful that emotion and perception doesn't get in the way of reality. We need to be careful not to let emotion influence our decisions, being careful to focus on the facts. This focus has been useful going through the process as we have at times felt overwhelmed by how difficult it is to initiate beneficial change and come up with an effective solution to improve environmental outcomes. This is especially so as we try to improve animal welfare and the socioeconomic wellbeing of the community.