

Submission from Riverheads Ltd

In the matter of Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Plan Statement of Clint and Adell Roxburgh submitting as concerned neighbours of the priority catchments.

The scope of our statement includes the history of our family and its connection with this property. Our thoughts on Policy 6. 3:11:5:7

Objective 2 Social economic and cultural wellbeing.

Objective 1 and Policy 5.

Sub catchment 3:11:4:5

Our current on-farm practices.

The Riverheads property is located at 953 Moerangi Rd Oparau with an area of 411.8456 hectares, approximately 293 in effective grass.

Delores Greenhalgh: (My Mother)

The managing director of Riverheads Ltd had a family connection with this property since her Grandfather milked cows and cultivated with a horse and plow team eighty years ago. In the early nineteen sixties my late father Kevin Greenhalgh's parents purchased the farm and my parents went on to buy it from them.

It was said to be the last Father and Son transaction put through the State Advance Finance Company before a recession in the farming sector. My parents managed to live on five pound a week domestic spending money, the bank manager said it could not be done and two and a half years later that manager apologized to them.

My father worked extremely hard when he started work on this property, there wasn't a fence that was stock proof.

He spent 50 years totally devoted to improving his place and our farming operation, he was forward thinking and astute. Dad also had a love of native bush, he left three areas of approximately 25 hectares in total on the farm. And in addition to that the property has a native block 93.07 hectares in size on a separate title. Preserved with the future generations in mind, my parents also planted two and half thousand Pine trees twenty-five years ago. We feel that if the agender and aspiration of the WRC is to have more trees, we are certainly more than doing our share.

The preservation and planting was done with careful thought for the future and the environment.

Our objection to Policy 6 land use restrictions is because we need to be able to graze two different classes of stock due to market fluctuation. We need some freedom to diversify in order to meet our constantly rising costs.

As an alternative, we would rather see the National water accord used.

Objective two. We do not have any faith that the plan changes are fair. It seems that the approach taken, would target farms that have not even been proved to be causing a problem with the water quality. The costs to comply with the rules and regulations would put us under huge financial strain. We want decisions made that don't target one industry just to assist another. We want as an alternative, independent water testing with reliable data that the public has access to. When it comes to Objective 1, we agree whole heartedly that it is important to have clean water, as farmers we know the value to our stocks health. We would like to see the energy and resources of the WRC directed towards determining the pollution source, areas and industries, then setting up achievable solutions.

Sub catchments.

We are willing to work with our local catchment to monitor and improve our on-farm practices where appropriate.

How-ever we feel that a voluntary approach would be a far happier way forward, instead of the threat of non-compliance and being audited.

We want to have the freedom to prove that our on-farm practices are already responsible and that we have made the changes to limit the erosion and the faecal matter run-off. Our present on-farm policy has been to lower our stock rate to 6.3 SU per hectare. We have included our recent fertilizer records to show that they are minimal and we are also careful to choose when we apply the fertilizer, so that it is able to absorb into the soil effectively. Every care is taken not to apply it just before a large rain system, that would potentially cause nutrient run off. We have silt catchments in various locations and on the steeper graded land we run sheep and lighter class stock to minimise the winter erosion. The gully's are lined with immature Manuka and ring-fern giving a natural buffer zone to help with faecal matter run-off. The winters are becoming extremely wet due to changing weather patterns, as a result of that we have voluntarily chosen to lower our stocking rate to 6.3 SU per hectare. We altered the class of stock opting for more young and therefore lighter animals. We have also changed the breed of sheep so they can better manage the grazing needs of the farm. This has caused profit loss but these decisions have been made because we believe over the many years that our family has been farming this property, that we have learnt how to deal with and adapt our practices to be sustainable.

Our grandfathers felt an obligation to produce food to feed their families and the community and we proudly wish to continue that tradition.

We wish to thank this hearing panel for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Riverheads Ltd

		Tonnes	N	P	K	S
Customer	Fiscal year	T	T	T	T	T
3027415	Riverheads Ltd	2019	5	1	0	0
		2018	34	5	5	3
		2017	21	1	3	2
		2016	45	2	7	3
		2015	35	1	4	3
		2014	71	2	8	6
		2013	100	3	10	1
		2012	66	1	6	3
		2011	33	1	3	3
		2010	30	0	3	3

			Mg	Ca	Na
Customer		Fiscal year	T	T	T
3027415	Riverheads Ltd	2019			
		2018			
		2017			2
		2016			4
		2015			7
		2014			13
		2013		0	19
		2012			12
		2011		0	7
		2010		0	6

