

ORC Water Permits Plan Change

Submission Reference no: 44

Vanessa Hore, **Blackstone Hill Ltd (Ben and Vanessa Hore)**



Submitter Type: Not specified

Source: Web Form

Overall Notes:

Clause

Are you a trade competitor?

Position

I am a person who would not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission

Notes

Clause

What are you submitting on? You can submit on specific parts of the plan change or the whole plan change.

Position

I am submitting on the whole plan change.

Notes

Clause

What is your view on the matter or the specific parts listed above? Please select one, if you have multiple views state clearly in the notes box below.

Position

Oppose

Notes

Clause

The reasons for my views are:

Notes

Key points Blackstone Hill Ltd wish to be considered regarding the proposed Plan Change 7. Blackstone Hill is a 4200ha property located at the top end of the Manuherikia valley. The property ranges from irrigated flats, low to mid hill country and undeveloped flat to rolling tussock country. We farm a mix of fine wool sheep and beef cattle. The Hore family have been custodians of this land since 1920 and have no intention of that changing into the future, we care greatly for the land and our environment as our family's livelihood has been and continues to be dependent upon it. We are undertaking building of on-farm water storage currently (and have been for the last 2 years) for the purpose of changing irrigation systems from flood to spray - increasing water use efficiency. This means we can irrigate more land with our water allocation, we request assurance that we will be able to utilise the water and the infrastructure into the future. Once the storage is completed we will have the capability to irrigate more area by more efficient spray irrigation - we are concerned that the proposed rules will prohibit us utilising the infrastructure we have already made considerable investment in (financial and otherwise). We have been following the recommendations from the ORC to increase efficiency of water use for irrigation by converting to spray systems and now this plan change is making operating these systems non-compliant (by not allowing for development after the 17/18 season). The proposed changes effectively grandparent land use to the 17/18 season - this simply can NOT be approved. If the property already holds the rights to use water for irrigation; it is important for predominantly dryland properties to have the ability to move the water to targeted areas to ensure plant establishment in renewal programs - we are concerned the proposed rules won't provide for this flexibility. Storage of water for irrigation (either on-farm or in catchment based schemes) should be encouraged as it provides better environmental outcomes by maintaining higher river flows during dry periods and allowing opportunities to capture water when flows are high. There are people going hungry - not only in the world but in our own country. Inhibiting the ability of farmers to produce affordable food products is only going to make this problem worse. Ben and Vanessa Hore Blackstone Hill Ltd

Clause

What decision would you like the Environment Court to make?

Position

Decline the plan change

Notes

Clause

Do you wish to be heard in support of your submission? All submissions will be considered by the Environment Court. Please indicate if you wish to be heard in support of your submission.

Position

I wish to be heard in support of my submission

Notes

Clause

Please indicate your choice(s) below. If you do not indicate your intention to call experts, you can change your mind later and decide to call experts to give evidence in relation to your submission, provided you do so in time to meet any procedural direction the Environment Court might make.

Position

If others make a similar submission I/we would consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing

Notes

Clause

Authority to act:

Position

I confirm I have the authority to sign this submission on behalf of the submitter

Notes