

[Redacted]

From: Otago Regional Council <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Saturday, 2 May 2020 10:36 am
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Anonymous User completed Submission Form – Proposed Water Permits Plan Change (Plan Change 7) to the Regional Plan: Water

Anonymous User just submitted the survey 'Submission Form – Proposed Water Permits Plan Change (Plan Change 7) to the Regional Plan: Water' with the responses below.

Full name of submitter

Cr Michael Laws

Name of organisation (if applicable)

Dunstan Ward, ORC elected councillor (2016-present)

Email

[Redacted]

Postal Address (or alternative method of contact)

[Redacted]

Phone number

[Redacted]

Do you wish to be heard in support of your submission?

(Being 'heard' means speaking at a hearing)

Yes

If others have made a similar submission, would you consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing?

No

Could you gain an advantage in trade competition from this submission?

No

Are you directly affected by an effect of the plan change that:

- a) adversely affects the environment; and
- b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition

I am not

State what your submission relates to and if you support, oppose, or want it amended:

(e.g. support rule 'x', or amend policy 'y')

Oppose the entirety of Plan Change 7

State what decision you want the Otago Regional Council to make:

(e.g. amend policy 'y' to say....)

To provide a plan change that properly reflects the recommendations of the Skelton Report, is based upon scientific and hydrology studies, takes cognisance of the socio-economic circumstances of the catchments and districts affected, and provides for long-term consents of 25 years-plus.

Give reasons for the decision you want made:

(e.g. I want policy 'y' changed because...)

Plan Change 7 was made in response to the Skelton Report - a ministerial inquiry into the capacity of the Otago Regional Council to process deemed permit and water permits that would expire in 2021 (deemed) and 2025 (other water) and prior to the implementation of a new regional water plan designed to be compliant with the NPSFM and operational from 2025 (or possibly 2030). It is important to understand two things related to PC7 - a) the majority of ORC councillors do NOT support the plan change as it is currently framed; b) the plan change is NOT based upon scientific, environmental nor hydrological studies. It is an ad hoc, interim strategy seeking compliance with a perceived government political agenda rather than any rational or scientific analysis. It also seeks to enforce clear inequities upon the affected parties - the farmers, horticulturalists, and viticulturists who provide the backbone of the Otago economy. For example, the ORC has issued a number of water consents (replacing deemed permits) in the two years prior to this PC7 - 80% of those are for periods exceeding 25 years. In 2019, a 35 year consent was given. Yet for those who seek consents post the notification of PC7, the maximum consent is proposed to be no more than five to seven years. PC7 creates two different classes of water consent holders, despite the applicants potentially farming in the same catchment utilising the same water flows. In addition, the section 32 report commissioned by the ORC in relation to PC7 is completely deficient in recognising or even researching the likely economic effects of PC7 upon the affected communities. The ORC council simply didn't have the required statutory information to make an informed decision on PC7 in January 2020.