

# ORC Omnibus Plan Change - Plan Change 1

Submission Reference no: 8

John Harris, **Maori Point Vineyard Ltd (Arthur John Harris)**



**Submitter Type:** Not specified

**Source:** Web Form

**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 Plan Change 1 or the whole plan change.

**Position**

I am submitting on the whole plan change.

**Notes**

I wish to add to the plan change the requirement that the ORC should monitor and regulate the discharge of toxic or biohazardous farm chemicals

**Clause**

What is your view on the Plan Change 1 or the specific parts listed above? Please select one, if you have multiple views state clearly in the notes box below.

**Position**

Multiple views

**Notes**

The plan does not consider the entrance of hazardous farm chemicals into groundwater. As an example, atrazine, which persists in groundwater, may legally be used in New Zealand. In the United States, a coalition of State health authority successfully sued the manufacturer for their costs in having to install specific treatment machinery into their water treatment stations. Atrazine affects development of male gonads causing male infertility, and various endocrine disorders: it is a major problem in the US farmbelt. Recommendation: a new section should be added to Plan Change 1, requiring the ORC to monitor bores and other sources of potable water for contamination by agricultural chemicals, as well as nutrient loads. A possible cost-effective method might be to require each holder of a water permit to submit an analysis at 5-yearly intervals, and for the ORC to collate and publish the results. For example, nitrate levels in my bore water have doubled since our first analysis. It would be helpful to know if this is a common trend in our district. It is currently not easy to test for hazardous chemical contamination, but if this were a requirement it would be an incentive for commercial analysts to offer the tests at an economic rate.

**Clause**

The reason(s) for my views are:

**Notes**

As above, agricultural nutrients and chemicals may accumulate in ground-water. The ORC should take responsibility for monitoring their levels, giving the basis for action should this ever be required.

**Clause**

What decision would you like the Environment Court to make?

**Position**

Approve the plan change with amendments

**Notes**

**Clause**

The reasons form my view and/or any amendment(s) I am seeking are:

**Notes**

As the former director of the Developmental Biology Unit at Otago Medical School, I am very conscious of the role of

environmental teratogens in child development. Monitoring their presence is the first requirement for managing any problems. Nitrate concentration in my bore water is close to the point of concern; I do not have information on other potential hazards.

**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.

**Notes**

If requested, I should be willing to be heard. I think my point is sufficiently obvious, but could submit evidence of possible hazards based on international studies, should this be helpful.

**Clause**

Authority to act:

**Position**

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

**Notes**