

# ORC Omnibus Plan Change - Plan Change 8

## Submission Reference no: 65

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**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 Plan Change 8 or the whole plan change.

#### Position

I am submitting on the whole plan change.

#### Notes

#### Clause

What is your view on the Plan Change 8 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

#### Clause

The reason(s) for my views are:

#### Notes

see attachment

#### Clause

What decision would you like the Environment Court to make?

#### Position

Approve the plan change with amendments

#### Notes

see attachment

#### Clause

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

#### Notes

see attachment

#### 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 do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

#### Notes

**Clause**

Authority to act:

**Position**

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

**Notes**

**The submitter have elected to withhold their personal details from publication.**

## **Mt Aspiring Station – Submission on ORC Plan Change 8 – August 17, 2020**

### **Part B: Animal Waste Storage & Application**

Generally we agree with the intent and provisions listed that relate to animal waste storage and application as well as silage pits.

We do strongly encourage the continuing use of the Dairy Effluent Calculator and Farm Plans as a way of assessing effluent storage and application. This ensures that the correct infrastructure and methods are used in relation to the climate, soil type and situation of each individual property.

### **Part C: Good Farming Practices**

Critical Source Areas (Definition) – generally we agree with the definition of a critical source area. However it is not clear under what climatic conditions it is identified as a critical source area e.g. a most areas will drain water in a 1 in 10 year rain event – does that make them critical source areas?

Rule 14.6.1.1 (c) – we generally agree with the intent of grazing from the top of the paddock down however feel this should be covered under Good Management Practice rather than a hard and fast rule. There are some instances where grazing from the top is not practical for:

- Animal Welfare Reasons – in high, hill country area where the paddock tops are very exposed the animals need access to the more sheltered lower areas or dry gullies
- Human Safety Reasons – in some situations it is unsafe to drive vehicles, tractors with hay etc to the top of paddocks due to steep tracks and greasy ground conditions
- Multiple Mobs – sometimes stock need to be grazed in multiple mobs for animal welfare and management reasons. This will require one mob to start at the bottom.
- Logistics – in some rare situations it will simply be impractical to access the top of the paddock right from the start

Rule 14.6.1.1 (d) – we support the intent of this rule however question whether a distance of 10 metres is required. 10 metres is a large with distance and in a paddock with multiple waterways this will result in a significant portion of the paddock being uncropped.

- We would rather the rules were in line with the NES and a distance of 5 metres was set for the reason outlined under the new National Standards.
- It is important to note that a greater distance will not result in less crop being sown. It will simply result in additional paddocks being sown into crop.

Definitions – the ORC has still not adequately defined what constitutes a waterway or the “wetted bed”. Even in direct conversation with ORC staff they are unclear or unable to give an exact interpretation of what these mean in practice.

- It is vital these issues are remedied before the rules are set in stone so that we know exactly what we are submitting on and land users know exactly what to expect.

## **Part E – Stock Access to Water**

We support the intent and general content of these rules however do have concerns with some specific rules shown below.

Rule 13.5.1.8A: b (ii) – we believe that a 5 metre permanent setback is excessive and inconsistent with the proposed National Environmental Standards. We would prefer to see this consistent with the National Standards at 3 metres.

- The discussion around the National Standards also identified the need for provisions accepting that existing riparian fencing will not need to be moved

Rule 13.5.1.8A: b (ii) – Note 2 - Wetted Bed (definition) – the information provided does not indicate a clear definition of a “wetted bed” that we can use in practice

Rule 13.5.1.8A: b – Note 1 – We suggest that the “continually flowing river over 1 m” definition should include a requirement for the waterway to be greater than 1 m for a certain distance before it is counted as greater than 1 metre. This is to prevent waterways qualifying where:

- A seepage could be 10 cm wide however could exceed 1 m for 30 centimetres out of 1 km at the one point it happens to puddle out, vehicle crossing etc
- A small stream may be under 50 centimetres wide for a distance of 3 kilometres then spread out to 1m for the last 300 metres as the land flattens and it flows into a river. It is not appropriate for the whole 3.3 km to qualify in that situation.

## **Part F – Sediment Traps**

We strongly support the intent and content of the sediment trap provisions with the exception of the Rule shown below.

Rule 13.5.1.10 (c) – we understand the intent of this rule however practically some sediment trap work will have to be done in slowly flowing water as that is the nature and purpose of sediment traps. The intention of PC8 is to encourage the use of sediment traps as a means of greater environmental protection and these provisions need to allow for that.