



# SUBMISSION FORM – Proposed Plan Change 7(Water Permits) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago

Form 5, Clause 6 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991

Office use only

Full name of submitter: Anthony John Herbert.....

Name of organisation (if applicable): Omakau Auto Centre.....

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I **wish** to be heard in support of my further submission.

If others made a similar submission, I **will** consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.

**Trade competitor’s declaration** (if applicable)

I could not gain an advantage in trade competition from this submission

I am 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.

Signature of submitter: ..... Date: .30.04.2020.....

*(Or person authorised to sign on behalf of person making submission.*

*Signature not required if you make your submission by electronic means)*

**Please note that all submissions are made available for public inspection.**

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

We oppose the full PC7 Plan Change.

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

We want the plan change to be removed completely. It serves no positive purpose for our town and business.

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### **Give reasons for the decision you want made:**

PC7 should be removed because it will result in a significant loss of income for our farming and business community, and will affect the schools, sports clubs and the general ability for the community to grow, with no environmental gain. The ORC have already caused a lot of stress and expense on the farming sector in our region and this Plan Change has further exacerbated the situation.

The proposal to issue short term permits for a much reduced water allocation for an area that was irrigated one year 3 years ago is nonsense. Farmers need long term permits so they can make capital investment decisions. If they are using the water efficiently and looking after the environment then they should be given the water back with long term permits.

The success of farming is crucial to the vitality of Omapara. In my business we provide Fuel, Mechanical repairs, Tyre and Hydraulic repairs, Tractor and General Farm Machinery services to the wider Omapara region. We are able to employ 8 full Time, and 1 Part time staff, which helps support 6 families. Out of these 6 Families there are 3 pre-school children and 4 at local schools. Farmers would be 99% of our customers. Myself and my children have swam, fished and played in the Manuhirika River, I have watched holiday makers and rail trailers swim in the river with the current set levels and have had no complaints.

The ORC has advised farmers to turn to Spray Irrigation for better Environmental Outcomes. Some Farms have already spent millions of dollars changing to spray Irrigation and others will have to do the same by borrowing money from the Banks. I don't think banks will loan money on a six year water right.

What I don't understand, is why this Proposed Plan Change 7 is getting pushed through with the Covid-19 lock down in place. You are not allowed out of your bubble. Farmers, Businesses and Community members are not allowed to have meetings to discuss this. If you do, you are breaking the law. So Surely the ORC, Government and Environmental Court are breaking the law as well?

The Government has stated on National TV and in the Newspapers that the Primary and Agricultural Sectors are keeping the country supplied with food, milk and infant Milk powder, plus keeping the export market alive, and now they are going to hit the rural areas with this law that will restrict the Farmers from carrying on farming. I believe if this Proposed Plan Change 7 happens, the country side will dry up, the Farmers won't be able to grow crops, the Workers will get laid off and the majority of Towns will struggle. We are a local business, and as such we support and sponsor - the local school, the bowling club, squash club, rugby club, golf club, dog trial club and the Alexandra Basketball team. If our turn over drops, then our profit will drop and we will not be able to afford to sponsor and clubs at all.

I have included my staff figures and turnover figures over the past 9 years, so you can compare how our business and staffing levels have grown, as the farming has diversified and town people are moving here to build houses, work locally and bring up their children.

Turn over from March 2010 - March 2011 was 4% up with 2 Mechanics, 1 apprentice and a part time office administrator.

Turn over from March 2011 – March 2012 5.5% down on previous year, 2 mechanics, 1 apprentice and 1 part time office administrator.

Turn over from March 2012 – March 2013 10% up on previous year, 2 mechanics, 1 apprentice and no office admin.

Turn over from March 2013 – March 2014 15.5% up on previous year, 2 mechanics, 1 apprentice and no office admin.

Turn over from March 2014- march 2015 17% up on previous year, 3 mechanics, 2 apprentice and 1 full time office administrator. (Started in Jan 2015)

Turn over from March 2015 – March 2016 5.5% down on previous year. 3 Mechanics, 2 apprentice and, 1 full time office administrator.

Turn over from March 2016 – March 2017 8% up on previous year. 3 Mechanics, 2 apprentice, 1 labourer and, 1 full time office administrator.

Turn over from March 2017- March 2018 11% down on previous year. 3 Mechanics and 1 full time Office Administrator. (down turn because of staff leaving and not being able to employ anyone, due to no applicants for the vacancies)

Turn over from March 2018-March 2019 7% up on previous year. 6 Mechanics, 1 full time Office administrator.

So I have to strongly ask you to read this carefully, looking at all the points I have made – before you make any changes and you have to think about what this area would be like if you do make the dramatic changes. The small rural towns would slowly become ghost towns, with plenty of water in the river, but minimal people living in, and supporting the townships, as there would be no work for them. Business would have to close, schools would close and the land would be burnt and dead from lack of water.

Is this what the ORC and Government want?

LET THE STATUS QUO STAND

## **SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5.00 PM ON Monday 4 May 2020**

Post to Otago Regional Council  
Private Bag 1954  
Dunedin 9054

Email to [policy@orc.govt.nz](mailto:policy@orc.govt.nz)

Deliver to Otago Regional Council offices at:

- 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin
- William Fraser Building, Dunorling Street, Alexandra
- Terrace Junction, 1092 Frankton Road, Queenstown

Online at [www.orc.govt.nz](http://www.orc.govt.nz)

### **Please note:**

Please note that your submission (or part of your submission) may be struck out if the authority is satisfied that at least 1 of the following applies to the submission (or part of the submission):

- it is frivolous or vexatious:
- it discloses no reasonable or relevant case:
- it would be an abuse of the hearing process to allow the submission (or the part) to be taken further:
- it contains offensive language:
- it is supported only by material that purports to be independent expert evidence but has been prepared by a person who is not independent or who does not have sufficient specialised knowledge or skill to give expert advice on the matter.