

[Redacted]

**From:** Otago Regional Council <notifications@engagementhq.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 May 2020 3:35 pm  
**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**

Ian & Wendy Ritchie

**Name of organisation (if applicable)**

N/A

**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)*

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

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

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

We are farmers in Middlemarch with a deemed permit that expires in 2021. We oppose the PC7 because of the uncertainty it is causing our business and the impact that it has on our lives. We purchased our farm knowing the expiry date, and confident given council direction, including other deemed permit holders obtaining long term consents, there was a clear process to obtaining new extended consents.

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

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

We want the considerable expense we've incurred preparing an application for consent under our current permit conditions to be approved for a period of 15-20 years in line with the capital investment made. We also want the ORC to support Strath Taieri Irrigation operation, to ensure a strong constant flow in the Taieri river, which is good for the river, its habitat, and would be good for the local community/economy i.e. power station, Oceania Gold, and irrigators.

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

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

To give us viability and security in our business. We want to build a dam to harvest flood water and invest on farm to upgrade our irrigation from K-Line to centre pivot with variable rate technology. We have already spent a lot of money on consultants, consent applications and water monitoring to prepare for renewal for our permit. We have 1800 hectares and our 80 hectares irrigated ensures we can fatten our lambs and grow winter crops. If we didn't irrigate, we must sell 60% of young stock store at a cost of approx \$300,000. Environmentally our farming is extensive with less than 5% irrigated and no additional negative environmental impacts due to our irrigation. A six-year renewal period is completely inadequate commercially (i.e. banks will not give us the funds to upgrade), for a farm business to operate. Environmental compliance costs are coming in the form of additional fencing of water ways, fertiliser application and grazing requirements, we have no hope of meeting these costs if we lose \$300,000 of income annually.