



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 Donald Young

Name of organisation (if applicable):

Email: [redacted]

Postal Address (or alternative method of contact).....
..... [redacted]

Telephone: [redacted]

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

I am directly affected by an effect of the plan change.

Signature of submitter: *Donald Young* Date: 13/04/2020

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:

I support the total withdrawal of this Plan Change in the wake of the COVID-19 emergency and its' consequences upon our region and communities.

I do not believe the Regional Council in its' present form has the expertise or knowledge to successfully solve the problems the renewal of the deemed water permits has created for our farming community.

Our farms are all so different and diverse. Soil type, topography, size, production, location. There are no two properties the same - from the finest wool to the finest wine and everything in between.

In the past I have invited CEO's, Chairpersons, Senior Dunedin staff and elected Council members to come to my area where I would happily show them irrigation and how the systems work. My invitations were never responded to or accepted. Water systems are vital to the wealth of our Central Otago area. Councillors and staff need to understand fully all the implications involved before any major changes of Law are implemented. It needs to be seen in its' reality. Even more importantly than that, they need to understand and appreciate the importance of a future decision.

Central Government in the form of David Parker showed his ignorance and lack of understanding forcing change in water permits. The ORC were very weak letting him get away with his comments. Not to even mention his serious lack of compassion.

Farmers generally are tolerant and willing to help, but they won't stand for ignorance and arrogance which has crept into the culture of the Dunedin office.

Some years ago I tried to renew my own water rights and after many hours of filling forms and installing water meters – at considerable cost, I was told I need to employ a Consultant to do the renewal. I felt quite insulted by unhelpful staff and their attitude

The one thing staff seem to have a fixation on is total litres used when the most important thing is litres per second flow. I have 100 hectares under gravity and mainly K-line sprinklers designed by Waterforce Ltd, who worked out I require 50 litres per second flow in the system to irrigate.

I was disgusted when two of our elected Councillors were barred from voting recently because it was deemed they had a vested interest in water. We all have interest in Water! Ratepayers use their democratic rights to elect Councillors to look after our interests. That is the actual reason for "Elected Councillors".

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

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

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The Otago Regional Council must withdraw Plan change 7 until they can prove to all rate payers and Irrigation water users that there is indeed a need for such drastic undemocratic changes intended in Plan Changes 7

.If it can't be withdrawn it must be amended so that permits can be replaced under the existing water plan rules and policies". During this time of extreme uncertainty, now is NOT the time for messing around with a system that is not broken. Right now, no one knows how any of us are financially placed or will be placed. Even as I write, the Government itself are unsure of that and they have other far more pressing issues to deal with. Covid-19 will cost every tax-payer in the country unprecedented figures. Consequently this is NOT the time to change anything until we have a clear road ahead.

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Give reasons for the decision you want made:

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

My deemed water permit is part of the Lowburn Creek Catchment and is one of many takes. In recent years we have had very dry seasons and never has the Lowburn Creek failed to flow into Lake Dunstan.

The Lowburn catchment is not over allocated and must be treated as its own identity. It is very wrong for staff and Council to make rules without ever coming to see the area involved in such a change.

Generally there is little or no understanding of irrigation or how complicated our systems are.

There is a historical aspect as well. Take my own deemed permit as an example. It was issued as a Mining water permit In 1863. This was a first for the Lowburn Catchment and was changed to an Irrigation permit for Te Oma Station in 1905. And this is still being used today.

There is no justification for a reduction in my water take, by averaging across 5 years what I have used. My intake always has a residual flow going past it, and no reasons or science to show that the creek requires higher flow have been provided.

I have an efficient irrigation system that meets your water plan now, and the proposed NPS FM, and could do a small number of extra hectares if I can justify the cost of this, but using water I save efficiently, not extra. Your proposed PC7 removes the ability to do this, and that is completely unfair and unreasonable.

Irrigation systems are extremely expensive and I have done what Council and community wants and invested in efficient spray irrigation for my farm. This has been a huge cost and to only get a 6 year renewal, and with unjustified reductions in water I can use, proves to me how little understanding ORC has, or regard for, farmers who must have water to be viable in Central Otago. My farm is predominantly a dryland grazing property running fine wool sheep for specific markets, and the irrigated part of the property is only a small part in comparison, but an extremely critical part. The farm is not viable without it, and my investment in efficient irrigation is wasted if I have to reduce what I take. I have been given no reason for any reduction being necessary whatsoever however that is what this plan change proposes.

The system is not broken and it does not require fixing – for the sake of change.

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

Otago Regional Council
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