

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF
THE OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Consent No. RM20.039

BETWEEN

**VARIOUS – COLLECTIVELY
REFERRED TO AS PIGBURN
WATER USERS GROUP**

Applicant

BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF JANINE RUTH SMITH

**GALLAWAY COOK ALLAN
LAWYERS
DUNEDIN**

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BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF JANINE RUTH SMITH

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Janine Smith. I am the owner and manager of a small stud farm and an applicant in relation to this resource consent hearing.

FARM OPERATION

2. My farm is a 278ha property within the Pig Burn Catchment. I operate it as an extensive system, breeding and finishing stud sheep for genetics, meat and wool. I breed Romney and Dorset stud sheep for sale to commercial farms and other stud breeders, therefore I need to produce enough supplementary winter feed to take young stock through to 14 months old when they are sold. I have had national recognition for my Romney sheep.
3. I also run a small number of cattle for pasture management.
4. 60ha of the property is irrigated. Water for this irrigation is sourced from a tributary of the Pig Burn. It is run to my property via a water race and the water is metered at the point of take.
5. I have installed a small storage dam and enlarged an existing storage dam. Currently water is applied to the land as surface irrigation, managed intensively so that water is not wasted.
6. If consent is granted for a reasonable period I plan to develop my water storage and irrigation systems to include spray irrigation.
7. Pig Burn water is used for stock water at the top of my farm, and for stock water throughout the farm when the Patearoa supply is compromised, which has been evident in the last 12 months. Irrigation is used to grow pasture for finishing young stock and for supplementary winter feed.
8. We sought advice from Fish & Game about ways to improve habitat values for birds etc on our property. Following this advice, we fenced off our larger storage dam from stock. The purpose of this was to create and protect shallow margins which are very important to wild fowl nesting, especially native species including Shoveler, Scaup, Teal and Pied Stilts. This dam would not exist without Pig Burn water.

EXPERIENCE WITH PIGBURN

9. I have been personally farming in this location for 4.5 years, although I have owned the property for 15 years.
10. Our flow is predominantly self-regulating because the take is from a small tributary which is generally too low for irrigation by mid-December. I do not have a direct view of the Pig Burn but I regularly observe it. The Pig Burn dries even when I am not irrigating.

CONCLUSION

11. As I mention we are a relatively small operation running an extensive farming system. We focus on producing high value stud stock alongside, meat, wool and a small number of beef cattle. Even so, irrigation plays a critical role for us. Without it we would be in a much more precarious position each season, unable to have a reasonable degree of confidence about our ability to produce enough feed to support our stock through the winter etc. We would be more vulnerable to adverse weather conditions and low prices as we would have less ability to choose when we sell our stock.
12. It would significantly undermine the ability for our property to provide for our economic, social and mental wellbeing.

Janine Smith

30 August 2021