

**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 ANTHONY BRADFIELD

**GALLAWAY COOK ALLAN
LAWYERS
DUNEDIN**

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BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF ANTHONY BRADFIELD

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Anthony Bradfield and I am one of the owners of En Hakkore, the site of former TB Hospital and Justice Youth Centre. Our property comprises 56 hectares within the Pigburn Catchment which we operation as a small sheep and cattle farm, accommodation/retreat, and residential community sustaining 30+ people. We have been operating this property since it was purchased by my parents in 1986.
2. We also lease another block of land from DoC down by the Taieri river which is approx 20 acres.

BACKGROUND

3. My parents bought this property, previously the Waipiata Sanatorium back in 1986. They named the property En Hakkore which means “a callers spring.” It’s from a bible story of a man who killed a lot of people and was about to die of thirst so he called out to God for water and God answered him by causing water to flow out of a rock. He drank and was refreshed. Over the years I have prayed for more water as we had only about 2.4l/s coming into the dam, even though our consent was for 7l/s.
4. We started growing tomatoes in a hot house as an income for the first 12 years and started breaking in a couple of acres a year on the farm to increase production. Loads of rocks were moved by hand or with whatever we had to move them. They were challenging times and we have struggled at times due to the lack of water. During dry summers we had to store the lambs and send stock off to graze and buy in winter feed to survive.
5. A few years ago, we were blessed with the opportunity to put in a bigger pipeline from our intake which enabled us to get our water flowing at 7l/s. What a difference that has made! We can now keep some of the farm green and it looks great! It has cost us a lot of money to improve the farm and to put in irrigation systems (K-line) but without that water we would be stuffed!
6. The bit of water we get we endeavour to use a best we can. We are investigating the potential to develop some hydro generation to produce some power in the winter.
7. We have 300 ewes plus a few beef cattle. We milk 3 cows, rear a few calves and fatten a few pigs. We have 10 houses, plus the old hospital buildings that we use for church camps and retreats. The Pig Burn provides water for all of these uses.

8. I love drinking this water and have done so for the last 34 years without once getting sick or anyone else coming here getting sick! My father who has farmed most of his life has managed to also grow huge crops of potatoes to use, and sell, and give away to those in need. We grow great raspberries, black currants, and other berries as well as all the other veggies one can grow in Central. We still grow tomatoes for our own use, and sell some but not in a heated glasshouse like in the beginning. We aspire to look after the place for the future, to feed and house those in need. It is a work of faith more than money driven. This water is essential for our property going into the future for God said that En Hakkore will be a refuge for many.
9. I love the fact that our water comes from high up the Pig Burn so isn't in danger of changing its quality. But it still takes time and effort and cost to keep the pipe line working as we can get slips and rocks blocking or damaging it.

FARM INFRASTRUCTURE

10. Approximately half of the property is irrigated using sprinkler pods. These are moved once a day and are on a 3 week rotation roughly. Our intake location is 5km from the property and our Primary Dam is 2km away. As such we have reasonably substantial conveyance infrastructure. We have no water bodies within the boundaries of our property so the Pig Burn is critical to us to provide water supply for human and stock drinking water, as well as irrigation. We have developed storage to ensure our water supply is reliable during the inevitable dry spells.
11. In anticipation of renewing the water permit for this property we invested in the following upgrades in 2019/2020:
 - (a) a new, larger pipeline from our intake which is 3km long. This included substantial track and bridge works to facilitate access.
 - (b) Installed an additional 600meters of 50mm pipe and 600meters of 32mm on farm to convey water around the property.
 - (c) Establishment of a new dam for storage. In addition to our Primary dam which has been enlarged twice over last 20 years.
12. We utilise water from the Pig Burn year round for a variety of reasons including:
 - (a) Winter crops (fodder beet),
 - (b) supplementary winter feed (hay, silage),

- (c) summer grazing,
 - (d) household water (10 houses),
 - (e) food crops for residents and guests
13. We grow fodder beet for the farm animals as it has a tap root so handles the dry season better and had lucerne up till this year to cope in the dry. In other parts of the country, they can grow a lot more things due to their seasons being longer. We have a short growing season so the water is very important to ensure we can maximise growth during the summer, securing our winter crops and supplementary feed to help cope with the longer winters.
 14. Please understand that 7 litres per second cannot water a big area. To water with a centre pivoting system we would need a minimum of 10 litres per second to water a 20 hectare area at 4mm a day. Because we are so small we have little pods in most paddocks which are shifted once a day but it takes 3 weeks to cover the area we irrigate.
 15. As you can imagine, it's quite dry by the time the rotation starts again. Ideally a 10-day rotation would help that issue. With our current system we are able to sustain our crops, but often pray for the rain to come. The storage we have installed has helped with reliability, but we still need to be very careful with our water management.
 16. Our sprinklers help to make the little bit of water go further but I have found when - not if - you get a few hot days of northwesterly things do dry out faster and when we were using flood irrigation. This is a downside of spray irrigation relative to flood systems that provide water deeper into the soil profile.
 17. Another benefit of having water to grow more grass is that it helps us with rabbit control. Rabbits prefer the dry short grass and don't seem to thrive in irrigated land as much.
 18. A longer term for water is essential to this operation, to keep the stock numbers we have going. Without some certainty about access to water we would need to take a much more conservative approach to our stocking rates so that we could be confident about our ability to maintain feed levels.
 19. There may be a time coming when there will be more people here, and greater need for food crops. Water will be central to our ability to continue to meet our needs and

the needs of our people in the future. We would also like to plant more trees which will require water to ensure establishment.

20. I do think we should be allowed to have the guarantee of water for a lot more than the proposed 6 year term being thrown around as how can we make plans or invest if it's only available for 6 years. I'm just a simple farmer who thinks some common sense is needed. We are a modest operation; we strive to use our water as best as we can. It is used to provide for our small community and those in need who we can also help. In my mind we are sustainable.

Anthony Bradfield

En Hakkore

30 August 2021