

Before the Independent Hearings Panel
at Dunedin

under: the Resource Management Act 1991

in the matter of: Submissions and further submissions in relation to the
proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement

and: **Fonterra Limited**
Submitter 233

Summary statement of evidence of Susannah Vrena Tait

Dated: 7 February 2023

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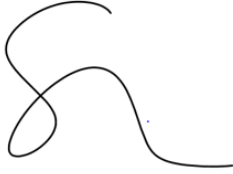
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EVIDENCE SUMMARY

1. My evidence addresses planning matters and covers a number of chapters within the PORPS. This summary addresses at a high level the key points within my evidence in chief.
2. By way of a very brief summary:
 - a. A large portion of my evidence addresses the concept of regionally significant industry and why it should be recognised in the PORPS. I have proposed a definition for regionally significant industry (see paragraph 4.7) and a suite of provisions throughout the PORPS to establish the appropriate framework for the protection of regionally significant industry. The amendments sought focus on protecting regionally significant industry from inappropriate urban encroachment, including urban intensification, urban expansion and rural lifestyle development.
 - b. The idea of recognising or 'elevating' the status of significant contributors to New Zealand's social, economic or cultural wellbeing is not new and includes physical resources, natural resources, and metaphysical concepts. I consider it appropriate for industry that has social, economic or cultural benefits of regional significance to be recognised in a similar manner. In my view, the very specific operational and functional needs of regionally significant industry (that cannot be readily replicated not easily relocated) warrant safeguarding.
 - c. Another concern I have is around the way the PORPS addresses reverse sensitivity effects. Again, I have proposed amendments to remedy this shortcoming. These are in Section 7 and Section 12 of my evidence.
 - d. I disagree with the reporting officer's approach to the provisions in the AIR chapter. I address this in Section 9 of my evidence. Briefly, I consider it critical that AIR-02 retains scope for a suitable policy response by providing for the management of adverse effects of discharges to air. I have then proposed amendments to the supporting policies to set appropriate environmental responses that is relative to the scale of effects arising from discharges to air. I have also proposed amendments to align the PORPS with the national direction for air quality.
 - e. In my view a number of amendments are required to the UFD chapter to reflect that the chapter is intended to manage both urban and rural environments, avoid reverse sensitivity effects and provide for regionally significant industry such that it is not constrained by urban encroachment. The amendments I have recommended also ensure that rural lifestyle development is appropriately managed.



Susannah Vrena Tait

7 February 2023