
IN THE MATTER: of the Resource Management Act 1991 (“**RMA**”)

AND

IN THE MATTER: of the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 (Non-freshwater parts) (“**PORPS**”)

**SRMR TOPIC: NEW SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUE FOR
USERS OF NATURAL AND PHYSICAL RESOURCES**

JOINT WITNESS STATEMENT FROM THE PLANNING EXPERTS

29 MARCH 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The expert planners involved:

- Susannah Tait for Fonterra Limited
- Claire Hunter for Oceania Gold Limited
- Lynette Wharfe for Horticulture New Zealand
- Vance Hodgson for Horticulture New Zealand
- Mike Freeman for Otago Regional Water Users Group, Federated Farmers and DairyNZ
- Ben Farrell for NZSki and Real Group Limited
- Steve Tuck for Silver Fern Farms Limited
- Tim Ensor for Fulton Hogan Limited

1.2 Caucusing was undertaken in response to Hearing Minute 6 to explore if the experts can agree on a new Significant Resource Management issue for users of natural and physical resources, including primary production, mineral and aggregate extraction, tourism and industrial activities.

1.3 A draft issue statement was issued on 28 February 2023. Caucusing sessions were convened on 7 March 2023 and 10 March 2023, which largely determined the key issues that needed to be articulated. Following which, an online shared document was made available for the experts to provide additional, more targeted, comments. A final caucusing session was held on 27 March 2023 to finalise the small number of outstanding points.

1.4 The following wording for a new resource users issue statement has been agreed:

SRMR(NEW) – the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of Otago’s communities depends on the use and development of natural and physical resources, but this can conflict with the achievement of environmental outcomes, including managing conflicts between landuses.

Statement

The ability to access and use natural and physical resources is essential for the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of the region including primary production, mineral and aggregate extraction, tourism and industrial activities. Access to, and the ability to use, natural and physical resources can be impacted by regulatory changes, incompatible landuses, natural hazards and climate change.

Context

The wellbeing of Otago’s communities relies on activities’ ability to access and use the region’s natural and physical resources. The quality of these resources and the ability to access them in quantities has a direct bearing on the wellbeing of people and communities in the region.

Failing to plan and provide for activities that deliver significant contributions to the regional economy can lead to adverse socioeconomic consequences. Conversely, failure of activities to sustainably manage their impact on natural and physical resources can also lead to poor socioeconomic outcomes.

Appropriate access to and use of natural and physical resources needs a planning framework that recognises and provides for the essential operational, locational and functional requirements of activities. Reverse sensitivity effects can lead to constraints on established uses, and the use and development of land can physically restrict access to natural and physical resources. The ongoing pressures of climate change (addressed elsewhere in the Issues section) will have an ongoing effect on the operation of activities.

Impact snapshot

Environmental

It is appropriate to recognise and provide for activities in a strategic way, avoid ad hoc decision making and minimise unanticipated adverse environmental outcomes (including conflicts between incompatible land uses).

Ongoing access to and use of natural and physical resources occurs within limits, and it is recognised that the natural environment can benefit as activities change how they interact with, access and use natural resources.

Activities that use natural and physical resources can achieve positive environmental outcomes, for example riparian planting, habitat restoration and enhancement, public access, and pest control activities. This can be as mitigation or compensation for the effects of activities or as contributions from economically sustainable activities in the region.

Economic

Economic activities that rely on natural and physical resources generate direct and indirect economic benefits; therefore, their ability to operate, or to improve their operational efficiency, affects the economy of the region.

The ability to access and use natural and physical resources may impact the ability of activities to optimise the use of investments and assets and realise their potential economic value.

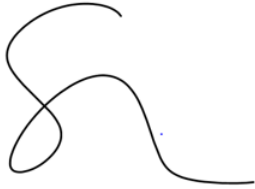
Economic activities that rely on natural and physical resources also rely on clear regulatory settings to inform investment decision-making about the use and development of natural and physical resources.

Social and cultural

The ability for activities to access and use natural and physical resources provides for the social and cultural wellbeing of people and communities including by supporting employment, liveability, recreation, resilience, food security and investment into communities.

Inappropriately located subdivision, use and development can increase the potential for harm to human health arising from incompatible activities locating in close proximity to each other.

Jointly signed on 29 March 2023 by:



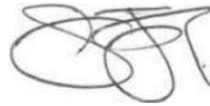
Susannah Tait



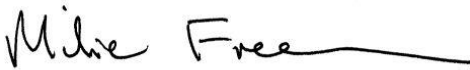
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