

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

Under The Resource Management Act 1991
(**Act/RMA**)

In the Matter of a submissions on the Proposed
Otago Regional Policy Statement
2021 (non-freshwater parts) (**PRPS**)

On behalf of **OTAGO WATER RESOURCE USER
GROUP (OWRUG)**

Submitter OS00235 and FS00235

**FEDERATED FARMERS OF NEW
ZEALAND**

Submitter OS00239 and FS00239

DAIRYNZ LIMITED

Submitter FS00601

SPEAKING NOTES OF LOGAN JAMES WALLACE

DATED 28 APRIL 2023



GALLAWAY COOK ALLAN LAWYERS
Phil Page/Gus Griffin
Phil.Page@gallowaycookallan.co.nz
Gus.Griffin@gallowaycookallan.co.nz

PO Box 143
Dunedin 9054
Ph: +64 (3) 477 7312
Fax: (03) 477 5564

SPEAKING NOTES OF LOGAN JAMES WALLACE

1. My full name is Logan James Wallace, I live on our family farm (Beacon Hill Farming) in Waipahi, South Otago, with my wife Penny. daughter Isabel, 19 months and our son Samuel, 8 weeks old.
2. The farm is 290 hectares used for intensive sheep breeding/finishing. We have 240 hectares of cultivated pasture and 30 ha of tussock. The farm carries 2600 Romney Texel ewes, and 670 breeding hoggets.

What is our concern?

3. The outcomes (in terms of the actual changes that will be required) sought through the Otago Regional Policy Statement are currently unclear, and therefore it is not possible to know the extent to which we will need to alter our farm systems. Until we have this clarity we cannot start mapping our pathway forward, or figure out how long we will need to implement the changes.

Complexity of decision making on farm

4. Farming involves a dynamic biological system, both in terms of the land itself and the stock we run on it, and a large number of variables that we have no control over, including weather, product prices and input prices.
5. Given the extent of the uncontrollable, farming requires the collection and utilisation of a significant amount of data to ensure we can make the best decisions. For example, we conduct soils tests every year across 3-6 of our paddocks and then complete a whole of farm test every 4 years. This information informs what fertilisers/crops should be used to optimise soil health. We apply the fertiliser with GPS mapping at the right climatic conditions.
6. The management of our soil directly flows into the management of our pastures and crops. We utilise rotational grazing for 10 months of the year and set stock our ewes for lambing. To manage the property like this requires careful planning to ensure that there is adequate feed available for the set stocking period. The critical feed budget point is

April/May because it is at this point that we know whether we have enough feed to carry us through the winter and enough for the subsequent set stock lambing period.

7. We utilise annual forage crops to ensure stock can be finished throughout the season and to ensure sufficient feed over Winter when we have no grass growth. The management of crops includes rotating paddocks to avoid dry rot and sowing at specific times to achieve maturity at a specific date.
8. Droughts are managed through de-stocking (i.e., selling off animals) or buying in extra supplementary feed, or buying in Nitrogen if there is grass growth (when drought is broken). We must have levers which we can pull in a drought, which is an inherent limitation of what we can achieve on farm.

What are the options for change?

9. The Pomahaka Catchment group has been proactive and instrumental in improving water quality in the catchment. Involvement in catchment groups helps landowners understand the land use issues on farm and the effects on water quality. A half hectare wetland has been fenced off and ongoing planting with natives is occurring – along with clearance of willows. Two more wetlands are planned.
10. We did have a propagation nursery with a large variety of mostly native shrubs and trees (locally sourced from cuttings). However, due to the birth of our second child as well as the additional time that is spent in the office in relation to compliance, the nursery is not currently operational.
11. My parents and I planted thousands of metres of shelter belts to improve the shelter on the farm for the stock. The shelter belts include a variety of trees. This has the added benefit of creating habitat for birds.
12. We are starting to fence off some of the waterways. We would love to do more but fencing costs \$15-20 per metre so we would be looking at more than \$40,000 to complete the task. We also need to upgrade the

water scheme before we can fence off the last of the waterways - requiring a \$50,000 investment.

What do we want?

13. We want the panel to acknowledge that work and cost is required to implement change, and it takes time for the effect any change. All time spent in the office because of the regulatory change is not spent on farm. This will reduce productivity and the options available to effect change.
14. Any regulatory change needs to recognise how each individual farming system works and its limitations, and that we are an industry that operates with a high degree of uncertainty. We need to make sure that what is created will achieve the desired environmental outcomes without unnecessary negative outcomes that have previously been seen, such as with previous rules around sediment management within small waterways.

Logan James Wallace

1 May 2023