

Summary of Evidence – Kelly Heckler

1. Lauder Creek is a family-owned sheep and cattle farm in Manuherekia, Central Otago.
2. Our farm runs from the irrigated flats of the valley floor to the high country. Animals graze right up to the skyline of the Dunstan mountains. Of significance is the Lauder creek and some tributaries which flow through the farm.
3. We have in recent times thought about much of our on-farm management through an integrated lens. My evidence outlines how we have made integrated farming decisions around winter grazing, but this is only one of many decisions made on farm every day. Some are small and seemingly insignificant, but others are bigger and can be multi-generational.
4. Integrated farming decisions take time to implement. By the very nature of farming, what we do today can still impact in many years to come. We all need time to figure out our pathway forward and implement that pathway on farm. Currently our pathways are constrained by lack of consideration in policy.
5. Important to making these on farm decisions is information and data. A farm is a very big biological section to monitor. There are multiple ecosystems and habitats.
6. At Lauder Creek some of the monitoring we are doing covers freshwater, vegetation, land, biodiversity, along with a multitude of other areas. This takes extensive time to develop a trend. We then use that data to overlay with on-farm management to get an integrated picture.
7. We hope that in the future the data we are collecting now will help ensure we are on the correct pathway for our farming system. This pathway will look different for many different farming operations. Farms are very diverse and a system which will work for one will be devastating for another. One outcome can have many pathways to achievement.

8. Farmers and growers understand that decisions need to be considered in a balanced environmental, social, and economic rationale. We live, work, and play in these communities and environments so it's a core value of many to see them prosper.

9. As we are on this land every day, we see what works and what doesn't. Farmers and growers are a significant part of the solution to achieving outcomes of the RPS. Therefore, involve us. Give us the policy support to allow us the space to figure out how to implement these outcomes, rather than constrain our communities, our businesses, and our environment.











