

**BEFORE THE HEARING COMMISSIONERS
DUNEDIN**

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991
(**RMA or the Act**)

AND

IN THE MATTER of Proposed Otago Regional Policy
Statement 2021 (Freshwater Planning
Instrument)

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE OF SIMON WEBB

04 SEPTEMBER 2023



ATKINS | HOLM | MAJUREY

Nicole Buxeda/Amelia Scharting
PO Box 1585
Shortland Street
AUCKLAND 1140

Solicitor on the record
Contact solicitor

Nicole Buxeda
Amelia Scharting

Nicole.Buxeda@ahmlaw.nz
Amelia.Scharting@ahmlaw.nz

(09) 304 0424
(09) 304 0422

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE OF SIMON WEBB

1. I am Simon Webb a fourth-generation fruit grower in the Cromwell basin.
2. We own and lease 60ha of land of which 50ha is planted in fruit trees. All our fruit is sold domestically throughout New Zealand.
3. During the last 6 years we have developed 28 ha of undeveloped land into productive orchard.
4. We have recently become very concerned with our access to water for irrigation. This is due to the issuing of a 6-year consent and the costs of getting the consent.
5. There are many uncertainties that come with a 6-year consent including effective use of infrastructure. Capital expenditure is more than a 6-year commitment. It is very hard if not impossible to get banking for development with a 6-year time frame not providing enough time to even bring a project into full production.
6. It takes time effort and money to put a consent together. Doing this every 6 years is stressful, consuming and a strain on resources.
7. Webbs Fruit have participated in the local community consultation process run by the ORC. We believe that food production and food security should be recognised in the proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement.
8. To encourage a pragmatic approach, I'm keen to see food production recognised in our local Freshwater Management Unit.

Simon Webb

4 September 2023