

Good morning my name is Jayne Rive.

Its April fools day today and how ironic that it is drizzling. I once heard it said that central otago has two droughts of the year and each lasts six months!

I farm Cloudy Peak in the Ardgour valley along with my partner & daughter & Mum and Dad. It's a real family business.

We bought Cloudy Peak in 2012. Mum & Dad were raised in the district and after farming in the Wakatipu & Marlborough, wanted to return to Tarras and semi retire. They gave George and I the opportunity to farm here.

I am a passionate merino sheep farmer and Tarras has traditionally been a merino wool growing district. Merinos are the ideal stock class for the fragile hills of Cloudy Peak as they do not graze the hill country as heavily as other breeds and they thrive on the native clovers and grasses that grow on this sweet hill country.

Cloudy Peak is 2100 ha with 40 ha of irrigation. The Lindis River which runs on our western boundary is our only irrigation source.

Cloudy Peak is a north facing property and has been infamous in the past for its rabbit population. A low rainfall and rabbits are the biggest challenges we face farming here.

Irrigation plays a key part in guaranteeing us a feed supply at critical times of the year.

Rabbit control is a significant ongoing annual cost that we must build in to our farming operation.

The Lindis is vital to our business but it is also a river we would like to see evolve. We are very aware that the future of the river and how it is managed is also vital to our community.

### **I oppose the 750 l/s minimum flow and support a 450 l/s min flow**

The impact of a 750l/s minimum flow on our farming system is too high for us to sustain a reliable merino farm model.

I support a 450l/s min flow. Although it removes 250l/s of 100% reliable water from irrigators which we currently rely on ; it does substantially improve the flow of the river for the community to enjoy. It would provide a better habitat for young trout and still give irrigators 300 l/s of 100% reliable water to share.

There is only 850 l/s of 100% reliable water in the river and a 750 l/s min flow leaves those that rely on the lindis water to irrigate, high & dry. A frightening thought when you have young stock needing the green feed that is generally only available under irrigation. If the 750 l/s min flow was in place this season our water would be off .

Cloudy Peak has already made a significant investment on the surmise of a 450 l/s min flow.

When we took over Cloudy Peak in the spring of 2012, there was a resource consent to take water from the Lindis River expiring in two months' time and a condition of the permit required us to convert to spray irrigation. At this time the land was watered by wild flood via gravity from the Ardgour race.

With the ORC advising that they would be notifying a 450 min flow, which provided a fair degree of reliability, we upgraded to a 24 ha centre pivot and 16 ha of k line at an investment of \$280,000.

Our irrigation is the lifeblood of Cloudy and gives us the certainty we require to carry out our farming operation.

All of our winter supplements come off these paddocks. The merino lambs are all weaned & finished on them and the wether lambs all winter on it.

This small irrigated area is crucial to the financial viability of our farm and with the high level of production required; any water restrictions are very quickly felt.

I read the Beal report with great trepidation. It was very obvious to anyone who farmed in this area that this report had no clear understanding of the elements involved, possibly due to the fact that no one who actually lives here was consulted. The very dry catchment, the value of the Lindis River to farming businesses and what the real impact the loss of reliable water would mean to the local community was not addressed.

I felt very let down by the ORC and their careless rubberstamping of a report that inadequately grasps what the real economic cost is to those who have to suffer it.

Another misconception by the ORC is the solution that we can draw water from the Clutha. Im assuming this is the alternative source often referred to as there is no other.

We recently had the opportunity to join a scheme that was piping water from the Clutha up the Ardgour Valley.

We thought this might be the answer as the ORC had suddenly blindsided us & notified a 750 l/s min flow & we knew this would have a significant impact on the feasibility of our farm.

However we quickly discovered this was not the answer.

It would cost around \$11,000 l/s just to pipe the water to our farm gate with irrigation infrastructure, fencing etc costing another \$12,000 l/s. Fixed costs of around \$350 l/s and pumping costs of over \$1000 l/s led to our bank withdrawing its support as this was an opportunity that was just not viable.

It would be great to have had this 100% reliable Clutha water but we could not make it stack up.

Thinking all Tarras farmers have access to alternative sources and that this would solve all of our problems is a gross over simplification.

**I do not support a primary allocation block of 1000 l/s .**

Our current primary allocation is over 4000 l/s. We are using over 2000 l/s. and by reducing the primary block so dramatically even more uncertainty is created for lindis irrigators.

**I oppose the new catchment boundaries as notified in the plan change**

How can the ORC randomly put boundaries in place, to force irrigators into alternative sources such as the clutha without thought to how these irrigators will access the river. (Which is almost an impossibility now, unless you own land on the banks of the clutha) and the huge costs that can make this source not an option.

To me this is unfair and just another example of the ORC offering a solution which is not really a solution.

The Lindis river is in a unique catchment, and a river that is vital to agriculture, delightful as a recreational retreat and an important refuge to young trout.

It has elements that are not shared by other rivers in Otago

There is 850 l/s of 100% reliable water in it.

Retaining 750 l/s of reliable water for recreation and trout is unsustainable for those who rely on it for their livelihood.

It is not the fair and equitable way forward.

As a farmer and a committee member of the Lindis catchment group I Thank you for your time and giving me this opportunity to submit.