



To Whom It May Concern

Re Proposed Waimakariri District Plan -Rural Zone Rezoning
Requests

This submission was presented at the hearing dated 11 June 2024 by Gary Walton at 11.50am.

Good morning Commissioners, Councillors, Ladies and Gentleman,

My name is Gary Walton and I represent Nicky and James Watherston. In addition, to the submission supplied by Nicky I wish to add the following:

- 1) I have been a Registered Farm Management Consultant for 35 years working in the Waimakariri District.
- 2) Also I have been the Chairman of the Loburn Irrigation Company for the past 7 years and currently the project manager for the storage ponds under construction; and for my sins
- 3) Waimakariri District Water Zone Committee member where I gained a great insight as to the groundwater capability of the Loburn Fan.

Current Situation – Without Water

This is a summer dry, stony block with very limited potential to produce especially through dry months and therefore lack versatility

Potential for Water - Could we get water

Problem #1 Surface abstraction – wrong side of the river for both Loburn Irrigation Company and Moy Flat Irrigation Company schemes. Both schemes are fully subscribed.

Problem #2 No infrastructure exists i.e. wells pumps etc

Problem #3 Lack of water in Ashley River Catchment now.

Low flow restrictions this year is over 150 days (up until yesterday).

I conclude that: *There is no water available for irrigation on this site*

Ground water could be available (if you can find it), but only in small quantities, insufficient for irrigation.

Therefore I disagree with the statement in paragraph 142 of the

Officers Report quoting Mr Buckley's assessment that " the high drainage constraint is alleviated through irrigation, which potentially reduces the impact of the soil constraint enabling the land to be used for dairy production".

In this case, it simply cannot as there is no irrigation potential on this block.

The author goes onto conclude that that "there is irrigation present in the area". **Not true in this case**

The two schemes in the area are both piped and pumped, and in our scheme case (Loburn Irrigation Company) over 3.5km to the Loburn Whiterock Road where it flows a further 7.5 km down to the end of Fletchers Road. i.e. both schemes supply water to the eastern side of the Okuku River but far away to the Loburn area, not Okuku.

In Summary, the statement in the report misrepresents the situation and unfairly singles out 1 property out of hundreds in the area. It limits the future opportunities for James and Nicky Watherston and in my view looks out of place on a planning map.

Finally, I believe that this rezoning horse has bolted, the gate destroyed, and I saw the horse go past my place some 30 years ago, so good luck finding it.

Thank you

Gary Walton

B. Agr Sci. M.NZ.P.I.M

Registered Primary Industry Management Consultant