

Submission for Proposed Waimakariri District Plan.

2 Riverside Road. Okuku.

We own 115.8 hectares by the Okuku River on Riverside Road.

We purchased the farm in 1979 and the whole farm was in gorse and we have spent 45 years improving it, farming it faithfully by developing it from gorse infestation, fixing it with good fencing, new pastures and eradicating the gorse, always knowing our Retirement plan and Succession Plan was to subdivide into 4-hectare Blocks. It would be unjust to create this planning anomaly.

We purchased this block primarily for a wintering block to complement the wet clay home block in Loburn. Although its productive capacity is relatively low it is very suitable for winter stock due to its very stoney soil. This land cannot ever be irrigated due the unavailability of water. This has been confirmed by The Chairman of the Loburn Irrigation Company and Farm Consultant, Gary Walton.

We have all 4-hectare blocks surrounding our property on the South, West and North and the Okuku River is our boundary to the east. The New Plan therefore creates an island in the middle of the 4-hectare blocks- this is our farm.

It is totally unfair that you are proposing 20 hectares, we strongly object. This devalues our land hugely. We have road frontage right around the farm from Birch Hill Road and right up to the dog leg bend on Riverside Road.

Your area needs extending by a small amount.

In general, we accept the principle of "Rural Ambiance" as the aim of the plan.

However, our intention has always been to create rural ambiance by creating 4ha Lifestyle blocks with a river outlook and an uninterrupted northerly view across the Okuku River to the slopes of Mt Karetu and Mt Grey and other views of Mt Thomas and Paketey Ranges.

Thank you

Nicky and James Watherston