

My Name is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] We have a family sheep and beef farm at Pohatu/Flea Bay. We have won awards for conservation and balancing our farming with indigenous vegetation and native fauna protection covenants and gifted reserve, and the protection of both Maori and early European archaeological sites with secret files on our property also protected with a covenant.

I am writing this submission because on Banks Peninsula there are many farmers like us who have chosen to protect important areas on their farms who are getting hit hardest by many of the current and proposed regulations. We chose to protect 40% of our farm 40 years ago allowing it to regenerate into indigenous vegetation, but we must control the 60% by constant knocking back of kanuka scrub and the spraying of gorse that is forever trying to recolonise. Both of these plants tend to grow up together and are highly flammable so our ongoing management also takes into account the control of this vegetation to lessen the risk to the 40% protected indigenous vegetation and our farm buildings and stock from wildfires.

Also on Banks Peninsula there are dry country farmers who manage tussock land by grazing. Tussock protects the ground and prevents it from drying out by shading pasture grasses between. If these areas were simply shut up the tussock land would disappear into native kanuka and coprosma species. On Banks Peninsula the tussock land is what it is because of grazing management.

I wish to make you aware of Regenerative farming. This kind of farming works with soil health so no cultivation or mono crops and no synthetic fertilisers. The stock from these natural cycle farms sequesters atmospheric carbon from grass to meat and wool at a rate that can out do trees as nature intended when Ruminants evolved 90,000,000 years ago. Without harmful fertilisers or insecticides Methanotrophic bacteria can digest and oxidise methane beyond what the livestock emit. The grass in balance with correct grazing and farming practices replaces quickly making it a valuable tool to fight global warming while feeding the millions. The proposed regulations run serious risk of making the practice of regenerative farming especially in balance with indigenous vegetation impossible. Happy healthy stock need trees for shade and shelter as nature designed.

Regulations tend to be blanket with little regard for diversity of farming practices and management. I agree the Mackenzie basin never should have been developed into dairy. Dairy on shingle ground with a lot of irrigation is a bad combination polluting underground aquifers and waterways. Other country however can lend itself very well to more intensive farming with good protective plantings along waterways and protection of wet land nutrient sinks.

The point I am making is every farm and farming practice can be very different, some highly protective of the environment and biodiversity while some more intensive farming destructive. Your proposed regulations are in danger of hitting the protective farms because they have dared to protect their indigenous vegetation, so you punish those who have dared protect and wish to do good for our environment. Farms like ours do require careful and constant management and we would prefer to not be dragged through court every time we undertake flammable indigenous vegetation control. We are proud of what we have achieved over the last 50 years. We feel we have proven we can do it well and we have no intention of allowing anyone to dictate to us what we can or cannot do on our property without a fight. We have no intention of applying for costly resource consents every year and will fight any attempt to put us into a situation of having to do so through media and court if necessary. In our case we expect justice for the work we have achieved.