Hello

We farm  ______________ hectares in ___________________, the Catlins, South Otago moving here in April 2001. The farm is a traditional New Zealand sheep and beef property.

We support good on farm biodiversity, which is managed by the farm owners, and not controlled, by any regulatory agency. Farm land looks the way it is now thanks to the hard work of New Zealand Farmers over the years.

We strongly oppose any significant natural landscaping lines, areas or conditions to be applied to any Freehold farm land as the owners of the freehold titled farm land / bush blocks we should not have any future, or unknown restrictions allowed to be placed on these areas.

There is a vast amount of New Zealand that is Government controlled and owned, which is Department Of Conservation land, this is a biodiversity significant natural landscape, Farm land should not be classed as a significant natural landscape.

If biodiversity and significant natural landscape conditions were applied to farm land / bush blocks, who would look after these areas and pay for fencing, wild animal control, weeds eg Gorse to be eliminated? The farmer or the ones that made the new biodiversity conditions?

It is of concern the lack of infrastructure around government land at the present time, an example of this is a lack of toilet facilities on high profile / high traffic walking tracks which needs urgent attention, these are Biodiversity significant natural landscapes, and yet tourists are putting human waste into these areas, because there are not enough, if any toilet facilities in these Biodiversity significant natural landscapes.

Also there is a wild animal population, pest weeds like gorse and broom, that are not being controlled at all in these significant natural landscapes. We have a boundary fence with conservation land and there bush, and trees are pushing over and putting pressure on the boundary fence now. How is this going to be fixed? There is enough land - being Department of Conservation land for New Zealand, without putting farm land into a Biodiversity / significant natural landscape classification.

It is of concern who actually would make the classification of a biodiversity, significant natural landscape area. Would these people be experienced in that particular land area location, and would they have any local knowledge of that environment to assist them.
We oppose any significant natural areas to be made by the use of map contouring lines, these areas need to be made on a visual assessment on site.

We oppose any resource consents for farming activities and also for new and existing farm dwellings and farm buildings, eg hay barns on freehold farmland.

In conclusion we strongly oppose any Biodiversity legislation on freehold land. We support on farm Biodiversity controlled by the land owner/occupier.

Please note this submission and submitters details are not to be made available to the public for viewing.

Thank you.

Submitted by [Redacted] and [Redacted] South Otago.