We are farming adjoining properties on the banks of the , the land is flat and of light soils and has been in our care for fifty seven years. Until 2019 we farmed a mixture of sheep and cattle with an emphasis on good animal husbandry and protection of the soil. Due to our age we have moved to stock grazing and sale of baleage. One block was to our son, one is in a family trust and we have retained.

The property was bought by the Govt and settled by in the 1940s. Due to circumstances there was only tree plantings and no native vegetation at all.

when we purchased the property there was a small lagoon which varied in size due to the level of the river.

Sadly when the Manapouri Power scheme was built the flow of the river was drastically reduced and our lagoon disappeared. It returned briefly in the recent high flood of the Waiau river.

We have enhanced the area with tree plantings of specimen trees, small forestry blocks of Douglas Fir and Macrocarpara and have encouraged birdlife with suitable trees and shrubs around the dwellings. We have tried to use seedlings of natives from the house garden but they are difficult to establish in the stony paddock soils but are persevering.

We are making this submission to draw attention to the vast knowledge of local farmers as to what is a significant natural area and what form of vegetation attracts birds in a particular location.

Urban dwellers should not be permitted to generalise on protecting rural landscapes when they have little knowledge of local climates and reasons for certain farming practices in differing locations.

WE have concerns for our local community (including services) if restrictions are placed on farming affecting the economy of contractors and small businesses.

The wellbeing and social effects on rural communities must also be considered.