

The background of the entire page is a scenic photograph of a rural landscape. It shows rolling green hills under a bright sky, with a river winding through the center. Several sheep are scattered across the grassy fields, and a fence line is visible in the foreground. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and pastoral.

Preparing for the Hearing

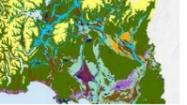
Videos – Advice about the hearings

Colin told you about the hearing from a farmer's perspective. Andrew told you about the hearing from a commissioner's perspective.

You may like to record any notes or ideas here...

Brainstorm Template



	Did you comment on this provision in your submission?	Why do/ don't you like this provision?		What would a better alternative be? <i>(remember to stay within the scope of your submission)</i>	Evidence I can use to back up my statement
		Proposed plan	s42A report		
 Stock Exclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 18 • Rule 70 					
 Physiographic Zones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polices 4-12 • Physiographic Zones Map Series 4 					
 Intensive Winter Grazing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 16 • Rule 23 • Glossary 					
 Subsurface Drains <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 30 • Rule 13 • Appendix N 					
 Cultivation on slopes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule 25 • Appendix N 					
 Farm Environment Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix N • Rule 20 					

BEFORE THE

Southland Regional Council

IN THE MATTER OF

Southland Water and Land Plan

STATEMENT OF (your full name here)

Date:

Contact for service:

Name:

Phone:

Email:

STATEMENT OF (your full name here)

Scope of statement

1. This statement:

- a. Introduces my farming business, and the ways that I farm to the natural capability of my property
- b. Outlines which parts of the proposed Plan will make it difficult to continue delivering these on-farm environmental gains;
- c. Specifically, I will focus on:
 - i. Stock Exclusion - Rule 70
 - ii. Physiographic Zones - Polices 4-12
 - iii. Intensive Winter Grazing - Rule 23
 - iv. Etc....
- d. Outlines alternative ways to better meet the Plan's objectives; and
- e. Outlines my future vision for my farm

You may like to write your own 'scope of statement' but feel free to copy out this one if you would prefer.

Transfer the sections that you will comment on from your brainstorm template.

Introduction

2. ...

3.

4. ...

In this section write the following:

- Paragraph 2: Your farm, where it is the size, your farming systems
- Paragraph 3: Your family, how long you've been farming, number of generations etc.
- Paragraph 4: Tell the commissioners that your ethos is to farm sustainably and to the environmental capability of the land. Give some examples to demonstrate this ethos – i.e. outline all the environmental things you do on your farm, such as:
 - Area under covenant
 - Talk about your soils and how you farm to their capability/ what you do to manage them
 - Other retired bushland
 - Wetlands/ sediment traps
 - GMP that you use
 - Waterway fencing/ riparian management
 - Critical source management
 - Farm plans (Focus Farm Plan or Land Environment Plan or other)
 - Catchment group that you belong to
 - etc....
- This section is important, but not the most critical thing you want the commissioners to walk away with – try to keep this section to a maximum of 2 pages.

Specific parts of the Plan that I am commenting on

Stock Exclusion

5. ...

6. ...

7. ...

8. ...

Physiographic Zones

9. ...

10. ...

11. ...

12. ...

Conclusion

13. ...

Use the ideas you developed in your brainstorm template to complete this section.

- Talk about the notified Plan and the recommended changes (if any) from the s42A report.
- Say what you like and/or don't like.
- If you don't support this rule, can you identify other ways that you could reduce sediment and pathogen discharge into waterways.
- What evidence can you show to bring your story to life for the hearing commissioners?
- Try to weave in examples from your introduction section – to reiterate that story about how you farm sustainably.
 - How does this part of the plan affect your ability to farm, your family, and how you manage your farm for the environment, and with future generations in mind?
- Paste your evidence into your hearing statement as you go.

Now repeat for the next section – try to use different examples if you can.

What are the key take home messages you want to leave the commissioners with?

Example:

Hearing statement to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan, Plan Change 3

1. My full name is Colin Thomas Hurst.
2. I am chairman of the Nitrogen Allocation Reference Group.
3. I am also on the steering groups of various catchment Groups including the Waihao Wainono Water Users Group and the Hook Catchment Group, and I chaired the initial meeting of the Otaio Makikihi Catchment Group.
4. I am also the Chairman of Waimate Federated Farmers and vice chairman of The Arable Industry Group of Federated Farmers of New Zealand.
5. I married Janis in 1988, we have three children Nick, who has just finished his electrical apprenticeship, Matt who is in his second year of bachelor of surveying at Otago University, and Kate who is in her last year at high school.
6. I am a member of a Family Farming Partnership, made up of my parents Tom and Ailsa Hurst, my wife Janis Hurst and myself.
7. My parents started farming in 1963 by purchasing 186ha (which they still own). My parents' philosophy was to grow and adapt the farm looking for opportunities to expand the business.
8. In 1969 they purchased a neighbouring property of 113ha (which is currently owned by a family land owning company).
9. I was born and raised on the Farm and boarded in Timaru to attend high school. I obtained an engineering apprenticeship and worked for four years in Timaru.
10. In 1986 I came back to the family farm and in partnership with my parents we purchased a neighbouring property of 212ha (currently owned Janis and myself)
11. Through the late-1980s interest rates were up near 20%, Farming was a real struggle and we were really concerned about the future viability of our farm, but we stuck at it.

12. In 1999 we purchased 109ha south of our home farm in trust for our children and in 2004 we purchased an adjoining 43ha.
13. So in total Hurst Family farms 684 ha, 152ha south of Makikihi and the home farm block of 532ha (Farm A in expert evidence provided by Dr Samuel Dennis on behalf of Beef and Lamb).
14. The Hurst Family Partnership is diverse farming operation as presented to the hearing panel earlier by my father Tom Hurst.
15. Through the mid-2000s we were seeking to grow our business, so we began looking to investigate irrigation opportunities, as the seed companies we were dealing with regarded contract seed growers more favourably if there was irrigation on the farm
16. In 2005 we applied for a deep ground water consent, this was granted in 2007.
17. Over the next couple of years we drilled and developed the wells, obtaining good reliable deep ground water.
18. In 2011 we installed irrigation infrastructure, with a total cost of \$475,000 on the lower Makikihi block and total cost \$301,000 on the home farm.
19. The funding was mostly done out of earnings as we could afford it. We were reluctant to borrow after the experience of the late-1980s.
20. Our plan was to stage irrigation expansion over a number of years as finance allowed.
21. At present we are in a difficult position because we began irrigation development (with consequent increases in estimated N leaching losses) half way through the N baseline period. The ongoing Irrigation development on the home farm is currently stalled mostly due to the uncertainty created by the Land and Water Regional Plan and Proposed Plan Change 3.
22. Estimated N leaching losses are shown in the following table:

Home Farm Total farm N leaching losses over time:

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Kg N/ha/yr	7	7	18	18	15

The increased loss in 2011/12 is due to installation of irrigation. The reduction in 2013/14 is due primarily to a different balance of crops in that year.

23. The baseline average modelled nutrient leaching loss (2009/10 – 2012/13) is 12.5 kg N/ha/yr. At current management (2012/14) the farm is already in excess of the baseline, simply because the period over which the baseline is calculated includes years before and after irrigation was installed.
24. There is inequity in the application of the baseline provisions under the LWRP. While we are caught by the baseline provisions, allowance is made for dairy development consented during the baseline period.
25. Hurst Partnership Ltd, is the farming entity and it leases land off the different owners Janis and myself, Tom and Alisa Hurst, Family Trust and a land owning company. This is a complicated structure, but it has and will enabled an inter-generational transfer of assets.
26. Because our family farming enterprise has different legal entities owning the different blocks of land, we will probably be classified as a nutrient user group and therefore require a consent.
27. My request is that established farming operations, where there is some commonality in ownership, is just treated as a single farm.
28. My other request is that farms that have a current irrigation consent and has incurred capital expenditure through the baseline period, is recognised and provisions are made similar to how dairy development consented during the baseline period is treated as in LWRP.
29. I am happy to answer any questions from the Hearing Panel.

We are here to help you – please get in touch any time

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