

My name is **David Scott** and I am here today to oppose the application by the Central Plains Water Trust for various types of resource consent to construct and operate the proposed Central Plains Water Enhancement Scheme; that will use water taken from the Rakaia and Waimakairi Rivers.

I own **Kirkstyle** Farm on Homebush Road in Coalgate. The majority of Kirkstyle Farm will be flooded if the dam and reservoir are constructed in Waianiwaniwa Valley as part of the Applicants scheme. I will lose approximately 600 hectares of land and the entire farm infrastructure; which includes 5 houses, 2 woolsheds, numerous sheds, barns, yards and fences, but most importantly my family and I will lose our home and business. I would lose the largest amount of land in the Valley.

It is not my place to judge whether or not the scheme is financially viable, I believe that is up to the shareholders to decide if consent is granted. It is, however, my place to express my concern about what will be lost if the proposal is granted consent.

This submission is in opposition to the whole of the Application and in particular, without limiting the scope of the submission, my key concerns are with the construction of the dam, reservoir and tunnel in Waianiwaniwa Valley. The reasons for opposing the application include:

- The actual and potential adverse effects of the activity on the environment will be more than minor, and will adversely affect my family to a significant and disproportionate degree;
- The proposed creation of a dam and reservoir in Waianiwaniwa Valley will flood the majority of the property and force us to relocate.
- My family have farmed Kirkstyle Farm for three generations, making significant investment in, and improvements to, the Farm. At the time it was purchased in 1952 a large part of the land was flood prone, rushy, unproductive and the remainder rough hill country. Extensive underground drainage, subdivision, fertiliser and capital expenditure has created a productive farm that is profitable year round, without irrigation.
- The work done by the Scott family since 1952 has created a valuable soil resource. The proposed construction of a dam and storage reservoir will irreversibly destroy this and foreclose future land use options, which is completely the opposite to Canterbury Regional Councils policy to conserve productive soil availability. This does not represent sustainable management of what is a recognised and valuable resource;
- Kirkstyle Farm is also a proven economic resource. It is a diverse business including independent deer farms, crossbred sheep for wool and fat lambs, beef, dairy support, arable crops, potatoes and forestry. The high standard of farming practiced by my family and our substantial investment in the land has established Kirkstyle Farm as a significant economic unit that contributes to the economic wellbeing of the region. At present I am taking a short break from intensive farming due to my wife's health problems and a new baby. However I have every intention of continuing to farm in the manner my family have always farmed for the last 56 years.
- The Applicants proposal will have a significant adverse impact on my family's ability to provide for our social and economic wellbeing, and that of future generations;
- In 2004 we built a new home on the farm in anticipation of the land being farmed by future generations. This investment and our family's future plans will also be lost if the proposal proceeds;

- The proposal does not maintain or enhance the amenity values of the expansive Waianiwaniwa Valley landscape and surrounding areas;
- The proposal does not maintain or enhance the quality of the environment in the Malvern area;
- The proposal will significantly increase the amount of water taken from the Rakaia and Waimakariri Rivers which will adversely impact on their natural character and amenity and function;
- The proposal will have adverse effect on the Waianiwaniwa River and riparian margins;
- The proposal will potentially have adverse effects on groundwater and surface water quality in the region; and
- The destruction of this significant physical resource and very successful and productive farm does not promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources;

People have been voicing their concerns over their views being ruined by the removal of the trees on the Kirkstyle Ridge, along with many other aspects of my farm that they find aesthetically pleasing. *I* am the person that maintains these views that the local people and others enjoy so much, and my family and I enjoy the farm each and every day. We never take for granted what we have and are always grateful for what previous generations have worked hard for.

The high standard of farming that was established at the start has never been left to slip, and financial records will prove that most of our profit has been reinvested in the farm to ensure not only accurate care of this beautiful land, but also to ensure that what my grandfather started, is continued and grown on for future generations. All of the investment that has been undertaken has not only been with capital expenditure, but with family members time and passion for the land. The knowledge that this is family land is what makes all of the hard work worthwhile. Wouldn't it be awful to think that the last 56 years of work has been for nothing?

If you grant this company with resource consent it will effectively remove all of the landowners powers of negotiation. CPW will hold all the power when it comes to negotiating for compensation, and with the Public Works Act behind them they will be able to take our land for possibly an unfair price and possibly a price that will not enable us to recreate what we have here. Why should we be disadvantaged? It would not be my intention to give up farming; it is the lifestyle that my family and I love so we would definitely have to find another farm.

Like everybody who is affected by this scheme, we have had sleepless nights worrying about what will happen, it is so difficult to have such a major decision for our family taken out of our control. However, we have tried to not let it monopolise our lives, as that is not good for health and wellbeing given that the decision is out of our hands. We have scanned the real estate magazines wondering where we might go, and after 6 years we still don't know what we would do if the scheme went ahead and we were forced from our home. In real estate, location is paramount, and we have an economic, picturesque farm that is 45 minutes from Christchurch, 7 minutes from Darfield, and has a primary school and a high school very close by. These and the other qualities of Kirkstyle Farm are hard to come by.

The compensation suggested to the landowners and to the Coalgate area, is pathetic. If this scheme is the great economic powerhouse that is implied, then surely they can afford to compensate appropriately.

One thing that interests me about this whole resource consent hearing is that there have been many submissions *against* the proposal and not many in support of it. Surely this is something you have noticed. If the majority of the community is speaking up *against* the irrigation scheme then perhaps it is not the best thing for the community.

The longer this process drags on the harder it is for everybody concerned. I am sure I speak for all those affected when I thank you in anticipation of you making this very difficult decision as quickly as possible, so that regardless of the outcome, we can get on with our lives.

The decision sought from the consent authority is that the Application be declined.