

To: The central Plains Water Trust, Environment Canterbury, The Christchurch City Council and The Selwyn District Council.

I am Tom Abbott & farm alongside the Rakaia Rv. Below Sleeman's Rd.

Just a few points I would like to mention to broaden out my original submission of 30.12.06:

I have noticed when the droughts have finished there is an area which has extremely low rainfall on the north side of the Rakaia Rv. starting around the Main South Rd. & coming up to 3 or 4 Km. above Sleeman's Rd. and is about 3 Km. wide at the top & somewhat wider at the bottom end. There are other spots around Canterbury much the same so I have experienced some harsh times.

One drought lasted nearly 2 years & our beef cows started swelling up under the tongue. The vet said that it was vitamin deficiency caused because they had had no greens for so long, fortunately it was easy to remedy with an injection of vitamins. & he told us to dose all the ewes if we wanted any lambs,

I'm all for the irrigation for the good of the country, but realize the scheme must have a storage capacity wherever it may be. I realize it could mean an upheaval & sacrifice for quite a few, some requiring a complete shift which I understand was done quite successfully in the case of the Opua scheme. I also realize that these people will need to be adequately compensated to cover shifting costs which are very high. In my case I have only 115 Ha. of which the canal will take an estimated 19 to 21 Ha. separating the property even more so, than it is now, with its two levels. In the process all the shelter trees planted on the terrace which is 3.8 Km. long will be removed that is unless the course is changed for about the last Km. to follow a hollow. The most important 3/4 have just got to a useful shelter size & made the top flat habitable in a sou'west. Also it is the only place on the farm which grows good stress free trees (except the top two rows) also they have been pruned & thinned some time back at a cost of \$15,500, even in 2 to 4 years time they will be worth no more than chip price.

While the canal is under construction some stock will probably have to be sold or grazed away & probably the reduced area will require a shift in farming direction.

In conclusion I would like to say there are people who say irrigation is not the way & causes too many problems, most of them are caused by bad practice, greed or ignorance, but better farming practices seem to be coming through and many are starting to cut down or even cut out bagged nitrogen which is worse when used with a lot of water. But then dryland

farming has'nt all ways had a good record, E.g. continuous grain crops,  
use of wrong implements on light at risk soils & I've even seen huge loss  
of topsoil on a no till operation.

*F. Abbott*