

**IN THE MATTER OF** The Resource Management Act  
1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF** Applications by Central Plains  
Water Trust to:

The Canterbury Regional Council  
for resource consents to take and  
use water from the Waimakariri  
and Rakaia Rivers and for all  
associated consents required for  
the construction and operation of  
the Central Plains Water  
Enhancement Scheme; and

The Selwyn District Council for  
resource consents to construct and  
operate the Central Plains Water  
Enhancement Scheme

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**SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF JOINT EVIDENCE OF THE LOWLAND FARMING GROUP**

2 October 2009

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**Contact: Mr D P McEvedy**

**Contact Details:** Tel 03 3242572 Phoenix Park, St John Street, Southbridge

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This supplementary statement of joint evidence is presented in support of the following submitters who **opposed** the above stated applications for resource consent:

A G Barnett, Lakeside	B McCartin, Leeston
R L and J L Barnett, Lakeside	P W B and D P Birkett, Leeston
S, A L and C Osborne, Leeston	S Shirtcliff, Leeston
W Thian, Leeston	L Cocks, Leeston
A McIlraith, Southbridge	P Reid, Leeston
R N Croft, Lakeside	T W Norton, Springston
D P McEvedy, Southbridge	L S and S A Parnham, Lakeside
D J, A J and A K Winchester, Leeston	I and L Lochhead, Lakeside
D and K B Stacey, Leeston	L G and V M McMillan, Lakeside
J P O'Neill, Brookside	A Bailey, Southbridge
P Lowery, Leeston	R J Heslop, Southbridge
C L Croft and C J Waugh, Lakeside	Barnett Partnership, Lakeside
C McIlraith, Southbridge	R L Inwood, Southbridge
S R Inwood, Southbridge	J McLachlan, Lakeside
T Williams, Southbridge	K A and J M Greenwood, Southbridge
I D Baxter, Leeston	Beachcroft Farm (member of Southbridge Water Users Group and their submission)

1.2 The Lowland Farming Group wishes to advise that it will not be appearing at the re-convened hearing of these applications on 12 October 2009. This is because the Hearing Commissioners have only requested the presentation of technical evidence from submitters to be heard. However, while a proportion of the effects of the proposed Central Plains Water Enhancement Scheme will no longer occur as a result of the modifications of the Scheme, we still have some concerns that need to be addressed by the applicant and considered by the Commissioners.

1.3 Given the above we make the following statement which we request to be tabled at the reconvened hearing.

## 2. **STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING CONCERNS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME**

2.1 The main concerns of the Lowland Farming Group in its original submission were:

- Groundwater quantity – the potential increase in the groundwater levels in our area. The Assessment of Environmental Effects recognised that groundwater levels in our area would rise;
- Groundwater quality – the potential for nitrate contamination and raised nitrate levels in groundwater; and
- Surface water quantity – the potential increase in surface water.

2.2 In relation to our original submission and the evidence presented at the hearing on 7 August 2008, we wish to stand by the concerns raised and statements made. We have viewed the revised/additional conditions now put forward by the applicant and make the following comments:

a. Any monitoring of groundwater quality and quantity should be undertaken for a period of at least 10 years prior to the Scheme's first use/commissioning. This is to ensure that a sound set of base data has been collected over a variety of years i.e. years with wet winters and dry summers, years with dry winters and wet summers etc. To propose a time period of only six months prior to the taking of water for the Scheme is inadequate and will not provide any data of value or sufficient understanding. As stated in our previous evidence, this timeframe and the level of information gathered at the appropriate locations, has to be specifically set out in the conditions of consent.

b. The consent holder is proposing the following condition with respect to lowland drainage issues:

*'The consent holder shall, prior to the taking of water for the Central Plains Water Enhancement Scheme, invite persons as outlined below to form a Drainage Technical Review Panel'.*

While we do not have an issue with the development of such a panel we suggest those parties invited to be on the panel should be agreed to by the consent authority and not simply who the consent holder chooses to have on it. The condition could be re-worded to include a certification of the list of parties invited by the appropriate Manager of the Groundwater/Drainage Section of the consent authority.

c. The applicant suggests in proposed conditions that the Drainage Technical Review Panel should consist of six people with the appropriate skills and knowledge. This includes *'a representative of drainage schemes management from the lower plains'*. We suggest that there should be at least one lowland farmer representative on this panel for the following reasons:

- There are several lowland drainage schemes that relate to very different areas and local knowledge from each of these areas is very important to what could potentially occur in these areas;
- Some of the lowland area, e.g. wider Southbridge area, does not have a drainage committee under the guise of the Selwyn District Council and therefore should still be represented with respect to these issues in relation to any potential Scheme operations in the future.

- On-farm drainage itself could be adversely affected by the Scheme through a raised groundwater table and there needs to be some representation at the very local level in relation to matters within farm boundaries.
- The introduction of a Drainage Disputes Resolution Board may assist in the resolution of any disputes but it needs to have the power to arbitrate effectively. We have concerns over the legality of such a condition and how such a Board might operate under the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991 or any other relevant legislation.

2.3 The Group is available to answer any queries in respect to the above submission from the Hearing Commissioners should they deem it necessary.

Lowland Farming Group

2 October 2009