

Noel Smith

PC 1 – Presentation

4 June 2019

Location and history

- 33ha on the banks of the Waipa River some 4km upstream from the confluence from Ngaruawahia
- The farm consists of 4 titles, the major title of 21ha having been purchased directly from Princess TePuia in 1917 and remains in the same family, the SAULBREY's (101 years)
- All waterways – Waipa River, Mangaheka Stream and Lake ? Are fenced to prevent access to the waterways. Fencing began in 1977.



We support the goals of PC1 but not necessarily the proposed 'how to achieve those goals

1. The protection of the waterways and the reduction of nutrient flows into the waterways is supported.
2. The use of 'Overseer' is not. Others who have submitted have or will cover the subject far better than I so will leave the subject to them. My concerns centre around any changes made to overseer and how that will affect the 'calculations' involved.
3. There does not seem to be sufficient protection for landowners using pragmatic solutions post flooding.
4. I confirm my submission and support similar submissions.



Flooding February 2004

- Our property has had many major floods in the last century. In the past 45 years the significant floods have been in 1998, 2004 and 2008 with lesser floods in many other years.
- The next few slides will show the effects of the 2004 floods



Scene from Ngaruawahia Rd looking west towards the normal route of the Waipa River

1. The river rose to levels consistent with the 1958 flood and floods measured in the late 18800's and early 1900's
2. The road, raised in 1987, was overtopped. It was again raised in 2007 when it was part of the SH39 network.



2 March 2004

- Debris on the 'river fence'
- Notice also the silt covering the pasture



More debris in the paddocks 2 March 2004

- The silt shown in the picture is some 100m from the Waipa River



Silt

- The river fence has had the bottom wire covered in silt – 25cm thick
- The River fence of approximately 900m had to be lifted as the bottom wire was buried under fresh silt



Silt

A post lifted



Silt – The crux of the issue

1. If left untouched the silt dries and kills all vegetation, except weeds.
2. There is no provisions safeguarding land owners who put stock back into paddocks while water is receding.
3. In the 1998 floods I did not put cattle into the paddocks as the water receded. As a result some \$10,000 (in 1998 dollars) was required to clear and re-grass the pastures. Production losses were high.
4. I am told by WRC staff that less than half the silt in the Waipa has passed down the river. The worst is yet to come!



Silt

Immediately following the 2004 floods and in some paddocks while the water remained in the paddocks I introduced my stud Hereford cows.

Those cows walked amongst the silt and 'pugged' the silt but not penetrating the pasture underneath.

The aeration of the silt allowed the pasture to grow through it and regressing was not required although some under-sowing was undertaken.

By allowing cattle onto the affected areas I was able to sustain the pastures and productivity.



Summary

1. I support the goals of PC1 but need the panel to allow pragmatic solutions to protect the sustainability of pastoral farming.
2. I support a sub-catchment approach to the wider aims and goals of PC1.
3. I have changed from breeding heavy Hereford cattle to finishing local trade heifers to better enable the sustainability of the land, (heavy alluvial silts) we farm.
4. However PC1 must allow for practical and pragmatic practices to ensure the sustainability of farming.

