

Submission SNA Hearing

Good Afternoon commissioners,

My name is Chris Hardy,

I farm approximately 1300ha of sheep, beef and deer in Makaretu and alongside the Tukituki River on Tukituki Rd. Approximately 30ha of forestry has recently been harvested that will be replanted next winter.

The property is a mix of flat, medium and some steep hill country; we leased our first farm in 1996 which we have since purchased, along with three neighbouring properties. We also lease my parent's farm, Lime Terrace which is adjoining.

I am strongly opposed to any of the land owned by the Chris Hardy Trust the C&H Hardy Family Trust or Lime Terrace Trust be included in any SNA's (138, 141, 191, 199)

I support the recommendation of the s42A Report to remove some SNAs from my land, however, I would like to have all SNAs removed from my property. At the very least, I would like the areas that are not indigenous vegetation or are used for stock grazing to be removed.

Although some of the area in question is fenced for stock exclusion (mostly cattle) we farm amongst much of the area partly to control weeds. Some holding paddocks are also included in the SNA's.

The proposed SNA areas have been preserved for erosion control, shade, shelter, aesthetics and conservation.

When I was a boy the Upper Tukituki River was beautiful open and accessible.

Under Regional Council Management the weeds have thrived and it is an inaccessible jungle of blackberry, lupin, bitter willow, old mans beard and broom to name some. We have worked hard to control the weeds and pests that encroach into the proposed SNA areas and a lot of money has been spent on erosion protection because the water cannot flow where it supposed to forcing the river to erode the riverbanks.

The property has employed a pest control contractor for at least the last 20years.

It feels the Crown is actually carrying out theft by stealth. By this I mean we are being increasingly governed by more and more regulation telling us what to do with our land. This regulation restricts how we can use our land, including where we could build a home, and impacts the value of the land in monetary terms if we were ever to sell the property!

Consenting is becoming more expensive, lengthy and difficult, we already do farm plans and needing consent for some farm activities, with more to come I am sure.

You may say that rules will not change; regulation creep over time is a sure thing.

We have never denied anyone access to any areas of our property, if they ask!

As for guardianship of the land, we are the best guardians; we have loved it, cared for it and improved it.

We have voluntarily set aside and planted areas of the property for conservation and beautification purposes, sediment capture along with shade and shelter for livestock. Because wanted to! Not because we have been told too!

I have spent my lifetime working to care for and improve this land, and we paid for it!

What is the incentive to plant native areas when somewhere in the future the Government will steel it off landowners?

We surely must still have Private property rights in New Zealand!

Thank you for your time.