

Before the Independent Hearings Panel

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*under:* The Resource Management Act 1991

*in the matter of:* Submissions and further submissions in relation to the proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement (Freshwater parts)

*submitter:* **Fonterra Limited**  
*Submitter ID* FPI019

Summary of evidence of Susannah Vrena Tait

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Dated: 5 September 2023

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**SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE OF SUSANNAH VRENA TAIT**

- 1 My evidence deals with the recommendations of the s 42A report authors (which I will collectively refer to as 'the reporting officer') on Fonterra's individual submission points.
- 2 I generally agree with the amendments recommended by the reporting officer to the provisions that Fonterra submitted on.
- 3 I consider the changes recommended to SRMR-I5 and SRMR-I6 are appropriate, on the basis that new SRMR-I10A, recommended to be included in the reply provisions, is also adopted. I consider that I10A provides the necessary counter-perspective to I5, and particularly I6, that access to and the use of water (and other natural resources) drives social and economic benefits that are important to the wellbeing of the region.
- 4 I consider the amendments to LF-WAI-O1, P1, PR1 and AER2 are appropriate as these changes are consistent with, build on and reflect the National Policy Statement for Freshwater 2020 (*NPS-FM*).
- 5 I support the reporting officer's recommendation to include an overarching objective for the Freshwater Management Units (*FMU*). This removes the repetition in and provides consistency (where appropriate) between FMU vision objectives. The consequential changes to LF-VM-O2 and the deletion of LF-FM-O8 are appropriate.
- 6 I agree with the amendments to LF-FM-P7 as these are consistent with the direction of the NPS-FM.
- 7 I agree with the inclusion of new LF-FM-P7A, which acknowledges the benefits of accessing and using freshwater within limits (consistent with the third priority of the NPS-FM).
- 8 I support the splitting of LF-FM-P15 (into LF-FM-P15 and P16) to provide for stormwater discharges and the discharges of sewage, animal effluent and industrial and trade waste separately. I support the amended wording of LF-FM-P15. I consider that changes are needed to P16 to firstly include 'greywater', and secondly to apply the same 'test' to both existing and new wastewater discharges. I consider a consequential change is needed to LF-FM-M6(8).
- 9 I agree with the amendments to LF-FM-PR3 and LF-FM-AER9 which, respectively, acknowledge the role that freshwater plays in supporting the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of people and communities; and reflect the revised policy direction provided by LF-FM-O1A and LF-FM-P16.
- 10 I agree with the recommended amendment to LF-LS-P21(1) which acknowledges that the health and wellbeing of water can be maintained or improved to achieve environmental outcomes by either the reduction or management of contaminants.