

John de Thierry and Wendy Gawne.

We are farming under Ataahua Partnership.

Please feel free to ask any questions through-out our presentation.

We bought this sheep/beef property in November 2014, consisting of 237 ha (210 ha effective) - Moakurarua sub-catchment , Priority 1.

The property we purchased farmed at 6 stock units/ha with a low fertility base. We now farm at 12 SU /ha and above depending on the season and climatic conditions.

We have spent significant capital on improving fertiliser levels to increase and maintain stocking levels.

The property had no ripirian fencing or planting, when we bought it.

We have been to Beef and Lamb Farm Enviroment Plan workshops and have drawn up a draft copy that has helped us to identify critical source areas. We have a fencing plan in place. We like the idea of a FEP but do not want it to be another expensive compliance tool.

Nitrogen Reference Point - Grandparenting.

The two reference years 2014-15, 2015-16 will penalise us significantly.

Our farming system is to capture the natural seasonal grass growth curve and adjust our stock units throughout the year accordingly.

If we were to have a NRP, it would in our situation be better to take into account our present farming system rather than the life style system that preceeded 2014.

Our Overseer results show - 20kg N/ha loss to water under our

sheep/beef system.

We would be comfortable to farm within the accuracy range of Overseer for sheep/beef which is plus or minus 30%.

A low NRP will cause a potential annual loss of income between \$60 to \$80,000.00. With this income loss we will not be able to stay a viable farming entity (costs, debt, etc). Resulting in the inability to fund any future stock exclusion or on going enviromental work and maintenance of that work.

In our view a solution to NRP is that grandparenting only be applied in sub-catchments where nitrates are an issue.

Stock Exclusion.

We think excluding stock from waterways where farmed intensively is a good idea.

However our farm map does not show how steep it is therefore how difficult some ares are to fence.

On our map waterway no.1 - "Priority fencing " - this area can be developed into an intensive cattle block. Stock excluded.

Waterway no.2 -"Low Priority " - sheep country with intermittant cattle grazing in low risk periods, no fencing deemed necessary.

Waterway no.3 - Some fencing already done and ongoing.Very difficult to fence due to gradient and rocks.

Fencing and water reticulation to these areas is very expensive and difficult to achieve.These costs are outlined in our submission.

A good solution would be to give more time for the stock exclusion rules.We suggest the end of the next plan change 2036.

In Summary - our view is if the Plan Change was to be endorsed as is - the on going viability of our farm and others in similar situations will be unsustainable. Our options being to sell to a life style farmer or forestry.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.