

Hearing Statement

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Proposed Timaru District Plan, Hearing B Rural Zones

Most of Timaru District's land is zoned rural and while it is important for these areas to keep looking and feeling rural and for productive land to be kept available for food and fibre production, there is also a need to provide landowners with the ability to be innovative, adaptable and flexible as to how they use their land.

It must be remembered that the General Rural Zone is a working business zone and the only space where primary production can occur. The functional and operational needs of food and fibre production need to remain not only protected but enabled and encouraged.

We seek a planning framework that acknowledges that there is a strong responsibility on landowners to manage any effects of their activities on the environment, while at the same time not seeking to burden the district with unnecessary compliance and/or without council trying to impose or implement plans that manage or regulate farming or land use activities themselves, rather than managing the potential effects of those activities.

I was part of the stakeholder group that worked with council and other primary industry stakeholders that provided input into the drafting of these provisions prior to notification. It is encouraging that this effort has largely been well received with few major changes sought.

Overall, we support the s42a recommendations for the amendments to the objectives, policies and rules, as the intent of these provisions has not changed.