

SUBMISSION ON TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN

TO: Timaru District Council
2 King George Place,
Timaru 7910

BY EMAIL: pdp@timdc.govt.nz

SUBMISSION TO: Timaru District Council Proposed District Plan

NAME OF SUBMITTER: Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE: Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited
Hewletts Road, Mt Maunganui
Private Bag 12 503
Tauranga Mail Centre
Tauranga 3143

CONTACT: Dominic Adams

EMAIL: Dominic.Adams@ballance.co.nz

This is a submission by Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited¹ on the Proposed District Plan.

Ballance cannot gain a trade competition advantage through this submission.

This submission is divided into two parts as follows:

Part A: Introduces Ballance, its activities and shareholders; and

Part B: Sets out the specific submissions and relief sought by Ballance.

Ballance seeks the relief set out in this submission, including such other additional, alternative or consequential relief as may be necessary to give effect to the changes sought.

Ballance wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

Signed for and on behalf of Ballance by

Dominic Adams
Environmental Manager
14th December 2022

¹ Hereafter referred to as 'Ballance'

Part A: Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited

Ballance Agri-Nutrients Limited is a farmer-owned co-operative with over 19,000 shareholders and approximately 800 staff throughout New Zealand. We own and operate super-phosphate manufacturing plants located in Tauranga and Invercargill, as well as New Zealand's only ammonia-urea manufacturing plant located at Kapuni, South Taranaki.

In addition to manufacturing and sales Ballance provides farm sustainability services including nutrient management advice. We place a strong emphasis on delivering value to our shareholders and on the use of the best science to inform sustainable nutrient management.

Reinforcing this, Ballance has extensive interest in the development of tools to manage nutrient losses on farms. Ballance, with Ag Research, has undertaken extensive research into 'MitAgator' which is a GIS-based water quality decision support tool that links with OVERSEER® to refine the latter models output. The use of management tools such as MitAgator, provides greater insight into the spatial variability of nutrient (as well as sediment and microbial) loss within a farm landscape and allows users to identify critical source areas (or 'hot spots') for nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and microbial loss across their own farm. Targeted application of mitigation and management strategies to these critical source areas help to provide more cost-effective environmental management solutions for farmers, while ensuring that effective water quality outcomes can be achieved in timeframes that recognise the socio-economic impacts of changing farm management practices.

The Company also owns and operates 'SealesWinslow' (a high-performance compound feed manufacturer) and the agricultural aviation company 'Super Air'.

The majority of our concerns in relation to the proposed District Plan relate to our Super Air operation. Super Air is the largest topdressing company in New Zealand and runs state of the art aircraft utilising the SpreadSmart system which uses geospatial referencing and computer controlled hydraulics to deliver market leading product placement. Super Air has a growing clientele in the Timaru area.

Ballance supports the intent of the proposed District Plan which has an overall aim to manage natural and physical resources that are important in the district and to ensure that environmental qualities and values are safeguarded for future generations to enjoy. Ballance recognises that safeguarding the environment and ensuring our interactions will enable a resilient economy that can thrive. This is a priority for New Zealand and we also recognize that farmers support this - with a large number of them, whom we are involved with, already implementing measures and planning further mitigations to reduce negative environmental impacts from their farms.

Our main points of concern are to ensure that the proposed District Plan does not lead to any unintended negative impacts on the area's environment, and economic and social aspirations. In particular we recommend clarifying the ability of agricultural aviation (including helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft) to continue to support the district's primary production without undue restriction. In our submission we have noted some of the positive aspects of the plan that we support as well as highlight some suggested changes. We hope our specialist knowledge of agricultural aviation will be helpful in the finalization of the District Plan.

With our expertise in aerial spreading, we have detailed below the areas of the proposed District Plan which have the potential to have significant detrimental effects on agricultural production within the district. We support the proposed plan's recognition of the need to protect primary production and associated activities in rural zones. Primary production is central to the social, economic and cultural well-being of the Timaru District. Food production systems need to be optimised and supported by suitable regional and district policies to help establish a resilient primary sector which will form an integral part of the success of all regions in New Zealand.

Part B of this submission addresses the parts of the proposed District Plan that are relevant to the interests of Ballance.

Proposed Timaru District Plan - multiple submission point ta

You can attach this table when making your submission via the online PDP submission form <https://timaru.isoplan.co.nz/eplan>
 Or by downloading our submission form https://www.timaru.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/17987/636102-Template-Form-5-Submission-on-proposed-plan,-change-or-variation.pdf and then emailing it to pdp@timdc.govt.nz



YOUR PLAN OUR FUTURE
TIMARU DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW
 LAND USE PLAN

Submitter Name: Ballance Agri-Nutrients

Please add a new row for every specific and unique point you would like to submit on.

Chapter / Sub-part	Specific provision / matter	Position	Reason for submission	Decisions requested / relief sought
<i>Please identify what part of the plan your submission point relates to – this could be a subpart or chapter heading within the plan. i.e. General Rural Zone</i>	<i>Please identify the specific provision or matter your submission point relates to – this could be a specific objective, policy, rule, standard, or a more general matter that relates to a whole chapter, topic, zone, or overlay. i.e. GRUZ-O1</i>	<i>Please indicate whether you support, oppose, or seek to amend the specific provision / matter. i.e. Support</i>	<i>Please provide reasoning to support your position. This could be a detailed explanation, technical information, or simply stating you support the intent of the provision. i.e. support the direction or GRUZ-O1 to provided for rural activities.</i>	<i>Please indicate whether you are seeking to retain the provision as notified in the PDP, delete the provision, or are seeking amendment. If you are seeking to amend a provision please set this out using strikethrough to indicate deletion and underline to indicate additional text. i.e. Retain GRUZ-O1 as notified</i>
Definitions	New definition: Agricultural aviation activities	Amend	Ballance seeks to have agricultural aviation activities defined in the plan as these activities are vital for supporting primary production.	Add a new definition: <u>Agricultural aviation activities; means the intermittent operation of an aircraft from a rural airstrip or helicopter landing area for primary production activities, and; conservation activities for biosecurity, or biodiversity purposes; including stock management, and the application of fertiliser, agrichemicals, or vertebrate toxic agents (VTA's). For clarity, aircraft includes fixed-wing aeroplanes, helicopters, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV's).</u>

Definitions	New definition: Day	Amend	Ballance seeks to have the definition of "day in relation to agricultural aviation" included in the plan. Weather conditions affect the operation of agricultural aircraft often. In a single day, weather can restrict an aircrafts operation to a few hours - typically this can be at the begining or end of the day as this is when the weather is normally the most calm. Therefore it is important to recognise the definition of day as defined by civil aviation rules.	Add a new definition: <u>A "Day" as it relates to agricultural aircraft activities; means 10.5 hours aircraft hours conducted between the beginning of morning civil twilight (MCT) and the end of evening civil twilight (ECT).</u> <u>NOTE. A day is defined in the Civil Aviation rules as: the hours between—</u> <u>(1) the beginning of morning civil twilight, which is when the centre of the rising sun's disc is 6 degrees below the horizon; and</u> <u>(2) the end of evening civil twilight, which is when the centre of the setting sun's disc is 6 degrees below the horizon.</u>
Definitions	New definition: Rural Airstrip	Amend	Ballance seeks to have a definition of rural airstrip included in the plan.	Add a new definition: <u>Rural airstrip; means any defined area of land intended or designed to be used, whether wholly or partly, for the landing, departure, movement, or servicing of aircraft in the rural area.</u>
District-wide matters, Strategic direction	SD-O9 Rural Areas	Amend	Ballance supports enabling primary production activities in the rural environment. The clause refers to "primarily productive activities" which is not the same as primary production activities and we seek revision of this. In clause ii, 'intensive activities" are referred to but not defined which introduces confusion as to the intent of this clause. To avoid confusion this clause either needs to be removed or revised to provide clarification. Clause iii, needs to include reverse sensitivity as a potential effect.	Revise as below: A range of primary production activities are enabled in the rural environment to enable the ongoing use of land for primary production for present and future generations, while: i. protecting versatile soils for productive uses; ii. managing the adverse effects of intensive activities on sensitive activities; iii. ii. managing the adverse effects, including reverse sensitivity effects, of new sensitive activities on primary production;
General district-wide matters, Noise	NOISE-O1	Support	Ballance supports the recognition that noise effects of activities need to be compatible with the purpose, character and qualities of each zone. Noise from agricultural aviation and other agricultural activities is expected in rural zones and is part of the zones' character.	Retain the objective.

General district-wide matters, Noise	NOISE-O2	Amend	Ballance seeks that primary production and supporting activities are included in the clause to avoid typical agricultural noise generating activities from being constrained by reverse sensitivity effects.	Revise the objective as below: The Airport, Raceway, State Highway, railway lines and the Port and activities located within commercial, mixed use and Industrial zones or primary production activities in rural zones , are not constrained by reverse sensitivity effects arising from noise sensitive activities.
General district-wide matters, Noise	NOISE-P1	Support	Ballance supports the policy which recognises that noise in some zones, such as rural zones, is appropriate and typical of the character of the zones.	Retain the policy
General district-wide matters, Noise	NOISE-P5	Amend	Ballance supports the recognition of the potential effects of reverse sensitivity on lawfully established activities. However, this policy does not address all activities or zones where reverse sensitivity effects on established noisy activities could take place. It should be recognised that noise from primary production activities will be generated in rural zones.	Either remove reference to "higher noise environments" in the policy and include rural zones or Develop a separate policy to address reverse sensitivity from noise sensitive activities in rural zones.
General district-wide matters, Noise	NOISE-R1	Support	Ballance supports the exemption for aircraft using airstrips and helicopter landing sites for activities in rural zones that complies with GRUZ-R14.	Retain the rule.
Area-specific matters, General Rural Zone	GRUZ-O2	Amend	Ballance supports the plan recognising the character and qualities of the General Rural Zone however, Ballance seeks for clause 2 to refer directly to activities in support of primary production.	Revise the rule as below: 2. a working environment of mostly utilitarian buildings and structures where primary production, and associated activities generates noise, odour, light overspill and traffic, often on a cyclic and seasonable basis; and
Area-specific matters, General Rural Zone	GRUZ-O3	Amend	Ballance supports the protection of primary production in rural zones, however, protection against reverse sensitivity effects should be specified.	Revise the objective as below: The land resource of the General Rural Zone is not diminished by activities with no functional or operational need to locate in the General rural zone, and primary production is protected from reverse sensitivity effects and sensitive activities.
Area-specific matters, General Rural Zone	GRUZ-P5	Support	Ballance supports the protection of primary production from reverse sensitivity effects.	Retain the policy.

<p>Area-specific matters, General Rural Zone</p>	<p>GRUZ-R14</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>This rule is overly restrictive and conflicts with GRUZ-O3 - Protecting Primary Production. The current wording of the standard will have significant unintended negative impacts on agricultural production in the Timaru District and the subsequent economic and social aspirations of the district and region.</p> <p>Restrictions on the number of days a rural airstrip can be used over a certain period do not take into account delays associated with inclement weather, the use of one airstrip for more than one farm, the number of take offs and landings typically required in one hour of operation, let alone one day.</p> <p>The rule does not consider the use of airstrips for a range of different activities including fertiliser spreading, soil conditioning, herbicide, fungicide and insecticide spraying - all of which need to take place at different times of the year.</p>	<p>Replace GRUZ-R14 with the following:</p> <p><u>Aircraft and helicopter movements are limited to between the hours of Morning Civil Twilight and Evening Civil Twilight as defined in the Civil Aviation rules</u></p> <p><u>A log detailing the time and date of all aircraft movements and helicopter movements shall be maintained and made available to the Council at its request.</u></p>
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Michelle Reeves

From: PDP
Sent: Thursday, 15 December 2022 3:13 pm
To: Samantha Orsulich
Subject: FW: Ballance Agri-Nutrients Submission on Timaru Proposed District Plan
Attachments: Form 5 - Ballance Agri-Nutrients Submission on Timaru Proposed District Plan.pdf; Ballance Agri-Nutrients Submission on Timaru Proposed District Plan_Final.docx; Ballance Agri-Nutrients Submission on Timaru Proposed District Plan_Final.pdf; Timaru Proposed-District-Plan-Multiple-submission-point-table Ballance Agri-Nutrients.xlsx



Timaru District Council | PO Box 522 | Timaru 7940
P: 03 687 7200 | W: www.timaru.govt.nz

From: Dominic Adams <Dominic.Adams@ballance.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 15 December 2022 2:28 pm
To: PDP <pdp@timdc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Ballance Agri-Nutrients Submission on Timaru Proposed District Plan

Kia ora,

Thank you for supplying the form and highlighting the need to include it with our submission.

Please find the attached completed form and original submission documents as requested.

If there are any other issues that you need to be addressed please let me know.

Ngā mihi

Dominic



Dominic Adams
Environmental Manager
Ballance Agri-Nutrients

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e: Dominic.Adams@ballance.co.nz
w: www.ballance.co.nz



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From: PDP <pdp@timdc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 15 December 2022 1:08 pm
To: Dominic Adams <Dominic.Adams@ballance.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Ballance Agri-Nutrients Submission on Timaru Proposed District Plan

Good afternoon Dominic,

Could you fill out the attached Form 5 submission form that is required as part of submissions to the Timaru district proposed plan and please resend your submission and the filled out form so that your submission can be processed as a complete package. Thank you .

Regards



Timaru District Council | PO Box 522 | Timaru 7940
P: 03 687 7200 | W: www.timaru.govt.nz

From: Dominic Adams <Dominic.Adams@ballance.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 December 2022 3:21 pm
To: PDP <pdp@timdc.govt.nz>
Cc: John Elliott <John.Elliott@superair.co.nz>
Subject: Ballance Agri-Nutrients Submission on Timaru Proposed District Plan

Kia ora,

Please find attached our submission on the Timaru Proposed District Plan along with the multiple submission point table downloaded from the plan review website.

If you have any queries in relation to our submission or require any further information from us please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ngā mihi

Dominic



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