

Submission to the Hearing Commissioners from the Rangitata Dairies Limited Partnership

1. My name is Justin O'Brien, and I am employed as a Support Analyst by the Rangitata Dairies Limited Partnership (Rangitata Dairies).
2. Rangitata Dairies own and operate seven dairy farms, five of which are located in the Timaru District. Additionally, Rangitata Dairies owns or leases five support properties, one of which is located in the Timaru District. A map outlining Rangitata Dairies farms within the Timaru District is included on the next page.
3. This submission primarily refers to the policies and rules within the Proposed District Plan relating to the natural character, more particularly riparian margins. The submission also includes the hazardous substances rules.

Natural Character – Riparian Margin

4. Rangitata Dairies farming activities, at least in places, includes the riparian margin of the Rangitata River as defined in the plan.
5. Rangitata Dairies sought that the farming activities were recognised in the policies relating to the riparian margin as the farming activities within the riparian margin could be considered as being inconsistent with the council's proposed objective and policies. For example, Policy 1 of the proposed plan refers to the natural character values. Farmed land within the riparian margin may be considered to be incompatible with the natural character values set out in policy.
6. While the farming and related activities is an existing use, and as such can continue subject to the provisions in the Act, Rangitata Dairies sought some certainty that activities associated with, and enabling, farming can continue to be undertaken.
7. As such, Rangitata Dairies supports the recommended changes to policy NATC-P5, and rule NATC-R3, as these changes will enable more certainty around the farming activities. Rangitata Dairies are aware that any works sought to be undertaken beyond those permitted by the existing use provisions, or the plan, will require resource consent, and the respective provisions of the plan will apply. Rangitata Dairies also accepts the officer recommendations with regard to policies 4, and 6.

Hazardous Substances

8. With regard to the hazardous substances rule (HS-R1) the submission was made on the basis that the chemicals used in the dairy sheds were not considered to be agrichemicals. Agrichemicals are not defined in the PDP. While definitions can vary, the (for example) EPA definition (below) would exclude dairy shed chemicals. Provided the council considers dairy shed chemicals to be agrichemicals the recommendation in the officers report is fine. Alternatively clause 3 of the definition of hazardous facilities could be amended to include dairy shed chemicals. Existing use provisions would apply regardless.

A substance used or intended for use in the direct management of plants and animals, or to be applied to the land, place, or water on or in which the plants and animals are managed, for the purposes of:

- managing or eradicating pests, including vertebrate pests
- maintaining, promoting, or regulating plant or animal health, productivity, performance or reproduction
- enhancing the effectiveness of an agrichemical used for the treatment of plants or animals
- mitigating environmental, sustainability, or climate change impacts.

and for the avoidance of doubt:

- includes any veterinary medicine, pesticide adjuvant, fertiliser, plant growth regulator, fumigant or domestic pesticide
- excludes any timber treatment chemical, antispain chemical and antifouling paint.

Property Map

