

**Before the Independent Hearings Panel appointed by the
Waimakariri District Council**

under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the
'Act')

in the matter of: Submissions and further submissions in
relation to the Proposed Waimakariri
District Plan

and: Hearing Stream 6: Rural Zones

by: the Egg Producers Federation of New
Zealand (Inc) ('EPFNZ') and the Poultry
Industry Association of New Zealand (Inc)
('PIANZ').

SPEAKING NOTES MARY MCCONNELL

9 OCTOBER 2023

SPEAKING NOTES

1. My name is Mary McConnell. I am a Planner with Harrison Grierson Consultants Limited and my qualifications and experience are outlined in my statement of evidence dated the 25th September 2023.
2. I fully support the S42A Reporting Officer's recommendations regarding RURZ-O1 and RURZ-O2 and proposed amendments to RURZ-O1 which prioritise primary production activities in rural zones, thereby maintaining each objective's intended purpose and effectiveness.
3. I agree with the suggested change to RURZ-P8, favouring the use of "require" with regard to separation distances between existing sensitive activities and new intensive indoor primary production activities. This change is crucial to providing certainty for rural land users and gives effect to RURZ-O2 as notified.
4. I support the proposed amendment to GRUZ-O1, which emphasises the economic significance of primary production activities and the urgent need to prevent land fragmentation. This amendment aligns with the broader objectives of the rural zone and will contribute to fostering a resilient primary production sector while preserving rural character in the Waimakariri District.
5. Establishing free-range poultry farming as a permitted activity and aligning the definition with the Canterbury Air Regional Plan will provide for consistency in interpretation in the hierarchy of planning instruments across the Canterbury Region.
6. The permitted activity status is supported as free-range poultry farms are typically recognised as likely to generate lower effects in relation to their size, intensity, and their impact on rural amenity values.
7. Consequently, these farms should not be subjected to the same planning framework that regulates other forms of intensive outdoor primary production activities.
8. MPI's animal welfare (layer hens) code of conduct for free range poultry farming limits shared outdoor space to a maximum of up to 2,500 hens per hectare. Alternatively, intensive indoor primary production captures chickens raised in barns, which can house up to 40,000 chickens with multiple barns on one farm.
9. I fully endorse the amendments to GRUZ-R18 and GRUZ-BFS5, which introduce setbacks and separation distances to minimise conflicts between intensive production activities and neighbouring land uses. These measures provide clarity and guidance for all stakeholders involved.
10. I believe it's important to include "farmers markets" in the definition of "sensitive activity" to address their potential impacts on traffic, parking, and reverse sensitivity effects effectively. This inclusion will give effects to RURZ-O2 as notified.
11. A farmers' market could lead to reverse sensitivity repercussions, which might not receive sufficient attention if the market were classified as a "temporary activity" rather than a "sensitive activity."

12. I request the commission to consider the relief sought in Section 5 of my Statement of Evidence. This relief aligns with Strategic Objective 04 (both as notified and as recommended to be amended in the S42A Officer's Report) and aligns with the overarching intent of the Rural Zone framework of enabling a range of primary production activities.