

***From the Office of the Chairperson***

24 August 2023

Hon David Parker & Hon Damien O'Connor  
Ministers for the Environment and Agriculture  
Parliament Buildings  
**Wellington**

via **EMAIL:** david.parker@parliament.govt.nz  
damien.o'connor@parliament.govt.nz



Dear Ministers Parker and O'Connor

**Stock Exclusion in the Upper Taieri Scroll Plain**

Thank you for your letter dated 22 August in relation to the Upper Taieri Scroll Plain. We acknowledge and appreciate the time you have both taken to understand the unique environment of the scroll plain, and some of the complexities associated with managing such a taonga.

ORC remains committed to implementing the suite of legislation aimed to improve freshwater management in New Zealand, including the stock exclusion regulations. However, as your letter outlines, application of those regulations in the Upper Taieri may not result in the best outcomes for the wetlands and its values.

As a Council, we discussed your proposal for an alternative pathway to manage the scroll plain and are pleased to advise you that we support the alternative approach of a management plan for the Upper Taieri. We are cognisant that there are still legislative requirements for you to work through in order that this option might be realised and we look forward to updates on the progress through Cabinet of the exception pathway.

Specifically, subject to Cabinet approval, the ORC commits to the development and implementation of a management plan for the Upper Taieri Scroll Plain that :

- Is developed in consultation with the local community and tangata whenua, and makes opportunities available for input from both MfE and MPI; and
- Is implemented as soon as reasonably practical through our Land and Water Regional Plan that is currently under development. We acknowledge the Upper Taieri implementation plan is to be implemented by 1 July 2025; and

***For our future***

- Gives effect to the NPFM 2020, including by giving effect to Te Mana o te Wai, actively involving tangata whenua, protecting the values of natural inland wetlands, and mapping and monitoring natural inland wetlands; and
- Is designed for the purpose of achieving improved outcomes for the wetlands; and
- Includes a monitoring and evaluation plan to ensure the impacts of grazing in the scroll plain are understood and actively managed, and that ORC has appropriate oversight to ensure wetland values are maintained and enhanced.

We have also had discussions with MfE staff and confirmed that the data we hold that delineates the Upper Taieri Scroll Plain is suitable. We will send that through to staff today.

If you would like to discuss any matters raised in this letter, or if any point would benefit from further clarification, please contact Richard Saunders, Chief Executive ([richard.saunders@orc.govt.nz](mailto:richard.saunders@orc.govt.nz)).

Again, thank you for this opportunity to provide an alternative framework to protect the scroll plain.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gretchen Robertson', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Cr Gretchen Robertson**  
**Chairperson**