

To Hearings Committee

From Philip Wilson

Date 31 July 2018

Subject Resource Consent Application
LUC-2018-208
53 Nichols Road, Momona
P and H Wilson

The People

Our family has farmed in the Momona area since 1870.

Our Reputation

We won the BALANCE Farm Environment Award, Dairy Farm in 2006/07 for Otago.

We have an annual planting programme to enhance the environment for our people and our stock and crops.

The farm at Nichols Road contains a natural wetland that is home to Pukekos and ducks. Up to 122 Pukekos have been counted by Fish & Game and hundreds of ducks live and breed here.

An Oak tree provides the ducks with feed.

Our other land closer to the Maungatuas is home to New Zealand Native Falcons, Wood Pigeons and Tuis and the creeks are home to thriving aquatic life including trout.

We have not noticed any birdlife use the Monkey Puzzle tree at 53 Nichols Road. The only species that frequent the tree are possums. These are considered by D.O.C. to be a pest and a threat to birdlife. Possums are also a known carrier of T.B.

Other Factors to Consider: -

- 1) Shading – we are concerned with the amount of shading this tree causes. A significant amount of valuable winter sun is lost due to the position of the Monkey Puzzle tree.

- 2) Psychological - Philip has been the victim of a large macrocarpa falling on a tractor he was driving. It 'wrote off' the tractor and Philip was trapped inside the damaged cab. This was very traumatic. He has had another two 'near misses' and is very nervous around large old trees.
- 3) An Annual Planting Programme – of 300 trees shows the Wilson's are active and must be a mitigating feature.
- 4) Attached is a photo and article that appeared in the ODT recently.
It shows our cows on Grainger Road, Maungatua with hawthorn hedges on either side. We have over 7km of Hawthorn hedges. These are home to many species including Pheasants.

Signed

Philip Wilson

Leisurely trip with the cows lets farmers pick up rubbish along the way

JONO EDWARDS

DAIRY farmers across the country braved the cold yesterday to embark on a yearly stock pilgrimage.

In some areas, they were concerned about the travel and mixing of stock that came with Gypsy Day in the era of *Mycobacterium bovis*.

Taiheri dairy farmer Phillip Wilson was not too worried about the threat of the infection yesterday as he moved a small herd just 3km down the road.

Gypsy Day is when dairy farmers, mostly share-milkers, move cows to other farms for winter grazing.

Mr Wilson, along with family and helpers, herded 15 cows to a runoff on his property from his son's farm near Berwick. It was an easy job for the team, who moved 120 on Wednesday.

During the slow journey, they filled bags with rubbish they found on the sides of the road.

The frigid conditions were

"just a normal start to winter", he said.

On the Taiheri most dairy farms were small, so many herds were just moved to runoffs for the winter, he said.

"It's more economical than to winter them on the dairy farms if your farm is small."

He was grateful to the public for being patient while farmers filled the roads with cows.

Last month, the Otago Regional Council re-established "Gypsy Day" as its name for the annual occurrence, pushed by Cr Michael Laws, who thought removing the name had been an act of political correctness.

It was changed from Gypsy Day to Moving Day last year by then regional council chief executive Peter Bodeker, due to the perceived offence to Romany people.

Mr Wilson said people on the Taiheri never called it Gypsy Day.

"We just call it the start of winter."

jono.edwards@odt.co.nz



Fresh pastures . . . Daniela Matthews (left), Max Proffit and Liz Hodson move stock near Berwick during Gypsy Day yesterday.

PHOTO: GREGOR RICHARDSON.