

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER APPOINTED
BY THE SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL**

IN THE MATTER the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of resource consents to occupy the Coastal Marine
Area with a tide gate and weir and to dam and divert
water

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application by **SOUTHLAND REGIONAL
COUNCIL**

**EVIDENCE SUMMARY OF LESLIE FRISBY
30 August 2024**

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1. My name is Leslie Clifford Frisby. I am a farmer and agricultural contractor from Southland. I live and farm in the Titiroa Stream area.
2. I made a submission in support of this application and have been asked by Council to help you understand what it is like to be a farmer who relies on the locks.
3. I have been farming in the area since 1982 and was in the Titiroa Catchment before the current gates were there. Pre-gates the land was very wet and full of gorse and rushes. Because it was so wet it was uneconomical to farm. I now lease 4 blocks from the Council and run 2500 ewes, 600 hoggets, 40 rams and fatten 300 cattle and 250 calves. I also run a few cows and deer.
4. Back when I came to the area, if a big flood came through or there was a big tide, portions of the farm would go underwater and the impact on the farm was significant.
5. Once the gates were installed, I did a lot of work on the land including fencing and installing tile and mole drains. This has meant the land can now handle a flood as the water table is much lower. I agree with Mr Young that the gates control the water table up to the railway embankment.
6. I am very worried that if the locks are removed the land would no longer be farmable. The drains on their own are not enough and I understand water will push back up them if the gates are removed.
7. The community relies on the gates. I employ five staff fulltime all year around. Most of our work is local and without the locks I am sure my agricultural contracting business would also be in trouble.
8. In my 40 years in the area there has regularly been good runs of whitebait along the Titiroa Stream and plenty of eels, trout and other fish.

Les Frisby