

**BEFORE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED ON  
BEHALF OF OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**

RM20.005

**IN THE MATTER** of an application for resource  
consent

**PISA HOLDINGS LIMITED**

**Applicants**

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**BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF HAMISH THOMAS HAY**

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**GALLAWAY COOK ALLAN  
LAWYERS  
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## BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF HAMISH THOMAS HAY

### Background

1. My full name is Hamish Thomas Hay, I am the vineyard manager at Chard Farm Limited.
2. Chard Farm Limited hold a share of permit 95789 to take water from the Amisfield Burn. Our water comes via a branch race and enters a joint storage dam at the top of our property at 1037 Luggate-Cromwell highway. This dam supplies water to Albany Heights and Mark II properties also.
3. We currently irrigate 24.2 hectares of grapevines. Some of these are recent plantings which are two to three years old and others that are well established vines of 18 years. We also have room for another 7 hectares of new development within the land we currently own. In addition to this we also irrigate another 14 Hectares of established vines that we currently lease.
4. Our grapevines are watered via lateral irrigation pipes with either dripline or drippers in between the vines. All of our newest plantings have individual drippers per plant placed between the vines which encourages the vine roots to spread more quickly and deeply. This allows us to irrigate less frequently during dry spells as these vines are more tolerant to dry weather and less dependent on a permanent wetted strip caused by older dripline methods. We are in the process of upgrading all our older blocks to this system to make our water use as efficient as possible.
5. There has also been new investment in pumping, filtering and automation as well as construction of an irrigation shed on our property. This investment in improving efficiency has come at quite a cost. The dripper upgrades alone are in the vicinity of \$3000 per hectare. So far there has been about 16 hectares upgraded in the last two years with continued work to upgrade the rest of our existing plantings over the next 2-3 years. The pumping, irrigation and filtration upgrades will cost over \$50,000 once complete.

6. As our dam is shared by three different users, we work together to monitor its level and keep an eye on how full the dam is. We all have water metres and can easily tally up our water usage. So far it has worked well, and we expect no change as all three of our operations have separate water storage and usage times.
7. Chard Farm Ltd is currently waiting on the outcome of this renewal process to determine whether it proceeds with establishment of further storage. If consents with an adequate duration are granted we will construct another 3-4 million litre storage dam as a backup in case of a dry year or water race failure. This would allow us to store water when we are not using it during the season.
8. Grape plantings come at a considerable cost. The existing plantings are worth \$200,000 per hectare. This means we have a total of close to \$5 million invested in current plantings with another \$1.5 million of new plantings waiting on the outcome of this permit renewal process.
9. Our proposed new dam will cost over \$100,000. We have and are willing to make some sizeable investments based on this water scheme staying viable with a consent term that gives us certainty to continue investing.
10. The operation supports a number of staff. We have 10 fulltime employees and up to 30 required during harvest. Seasonal requirements for staff fluctuate but can be 20 or more over the summer months.

Hamish Hay

Chard Farm Limited

Date: 22 August 2020