

Mega-farms greed

The letter of David Haynes of trout fishing advocate the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers had much to commend [Express, November 21].

In my experience the Kiwi family farm carries out farming in a responsible way with a sensitivity to the environment and in most cases willingly granting access to responsible and law abiding fishermen and hunters.

To anyone who has witnessed the corporate dairy farms and the massive irrigators working on hot summer days with high evaporation rates, the mega-farms are there for one thing - maximum money.

Federated Farmers NZ has been recently bagging trout as "introduced fish". MPs follow that hypocritical line at their peril. Trout have been here for almost 150 years. Today we live in a 21st century ecosystem.

The other aspect is the use of toxic chemicals. The "1080 gravy train" is a thinly disguised means of Tb-Free NZ and the Department of Conservation to garner more vote allocation funds. It is destructive, destroying forest ecosystems as scientists like Mike Meads in 1994 told DOC. Meads was ostracised and his and other scientists' findings ignored.

A blatant case of the attitude of mega-farmers is Landcorp at Cape Foulwind using Dew 600 for grass grub. Dead mallard ducks were found with Dew 600 inside. In addition Dew 600 is lethal to aquatic life. How widely is Dew 600 used? That is alarming.

Does Landcorp care? Does John Key care? Does DOC care?

All those who should care have, by inaction, disowned responsibility.

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