

## King dead wrong

In a recent farming paper, Kaikoura National MP Colin King criticised Fish and Game's billboards highlighting the impact of irrigation and showing a dead trout.

Naively, I would expect a modicum of logic and common sense from an MP but have been disappointed.

In the same farming paper Marlborough Federated Farmers admirably expressed concerns about corporate-style farming invading the Kiwi family farm scenario. Corporate-style farming is also impacting on low rainfall traditional sheep farming areas such as the MacKenzie Basin and Canterbury Plains, requiring vast quantities of water to grow alien pasture - water taken from the public's rivers.

These corporate operations have one sole motive - maximising profits, which they achieve by continually intensifying farm pro-

duction, which in turn requires mind-boggling quantities of fresh water for irrigation.

They care not a jot for the public's rivers, environment or New Zealand's "clean, green" image, which underpins our safe food exports. It should be noted this corporate behaviour is endorsed by Mr King's government.

It's important to distinguish between corporate farming operations and the traditional Kiwi family farm, the latter in 99 per cent of cases showing environmental empathy, a sense of stewardship of the land and in most cases willingness to give access to the outdoor users.

Mr King disparagingly termed trout "introduced" fish. By the same silly reasoning, corporate farm dairy cows are an introduced species, so are humans and potatoes and roses, all of which Mr King undoubtedly appreciates.

We can have sensible sustainable farming, clean rivers, trout and a clean and green environment but not with Mr King's myopic attitude.

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