



Hi, I'm Pattie O'Boyle.

Amongst other things, I'm a rural resident, a farm owner and an ex rural banker. And I'm not usually one to create a fuss. Recently I've felt compelled to "get in behind" rural communities advocate, 50 Shades of Green. Advocacy and / or the questioning of government policy (and its unintended consequences) is a new space for me to be in.

Both myself and my husband, Tony, are more typically quite positive people, open to change, early adopters, excited by possibilities - however recent developments / proposed legislation in regards forestry and blanket planting of productive farmland, has meant that we are far from feeling positive or "on board". We will not sit idly by and watch hectare upon hectare of good, productive farmland being sold into forestry or blanket planted into forestry.

Back in the 1990's I was preoccupied with paying off my student OD, establishing my career, working with Tony to establish our family farming business and starting a family - so I wasn't so much aware of the massive wave of land conversion to forestry that sadly occurred at that time.

However, this time around, with the quality of land being lost and the displacement of good people, livestock and communities has seen me become a vocal and fervent supporter of conservation lobby group, 50 Shades of Green. I am completely incensed by current government policy settings around the BTP and the softening of the OIO pipeline for foreign investors.

I am incredulous that the coalition government has been slow to recognise that massive land use change to forestry has come at the expense of good, productive farmland.

We must keep raising awareness, keep in front of the powers that be and keep this issue and solutions front of mind for our politicians who otherwise seem content to watch the decimation and destruction of strong, thriving rural communities, with little thought for the social wellbeing, economic or environmental outcomes.

I, along with many others (both urban and rural), am determined that NZ must not see another wholesale land use change, especially one that takes away from an efficient and productive food production system. To my mind, government policies must not ENABLE, ENCOURAGE and or SUBSIDISE blanket planting of pinus radiata of good, productive farmland.

I know and understand that that (1) NZ has certain commitments to climate change mitigation and that (2) trees

may play a part in limiting global warming and, therefore, subsequent climate change. However, I also know that the Paris Accord was explicit in its insistence that any mitigation must NOT be at the expense of food production

I know that our own beautiful property, Marangai, like so many other NZ sheep and beef farm properties, has a substantial natural carbon sink, in not only it's soil, but it's annual grass / crop production and it's significant native and exotic vegetation (over 25% of the property). It defies belief that none of those mitigants or "offsets" are being "counted" under current measurements.

I also know that we and other NZ farmers are amongst the most efficient food producers in the world, even after allowing for transport emissions that occur during the export process. I predict that that less efficient food producers in other parts of the world will move to fill any gap that NZ leaves, which means the planet will be worse off. What part of that makes sense?

I also know that demand for NZ's grass-fed red meat proteins is at an all-time high and that there's a real keenness to secure food and reward the producer at a better price than ever before.

During 2019 I was fortunate to visit mainland China and to see and hear first-hand what matters to many of the Chinese consumers. China can't get enough of NZ's grass-fed red meat products. China has an insatiable demand for nutrient dense and delicious B+LNZ beef, lamb and venison products.

In addition, the recent African Pig Swine epidemic is set to see even more demand for our meat proteins, as China and other nations look to fill their domestic demand for meat.

And adding to that, global population is on track to reach 10B in 2050 (up 28.5% from current 7.7B), meaning now is most certainly not the time to be taking land out of food production in favour of speculative, mono cultures of pinus radiata that may not ever be harvested

I wholeheartedly agree with "right tree, right place". NZ and New Zealanders must be sure that the right trees are being planted in the right places, for the right reasons and for the right results. NZ can't "afford" to get this wrong!

Please join me in supporting www.50shadesofgreen.co.nz who is committed to working on behalf of all NZ'ers to stop the wholesale land use change from food production to forestry on good, productive farmland. Your financial support will be greatly appreciated and will allow our collective voices to be heard and our message to be circulated to rural and urban dwellers and politicians - all who should be very concerned by the unintended consequences of the push to plant more trees..