

Stand Up To SAVE INVERMAY

SAVE

INVERMAY

SIGN THE PETITION

Last August AgResearch stunned the South by announcing that Invermay was to lose three-quarters of its staff to a proposed science hub at Lincoln. A 'summit' was organised at short notice and over 50 civic, community and rural leaders gathered to signal their determination to have that decision reversed. A Save Invermay Group formed and is still on the case.

This is our progress report to you.

The opposition at the August summit was then and now much, much more than merely resisting local job losses.

Then and now we hold the view that AgResearch's plans will result in the destruction of a Dunedin based genetics cluster that has been behind remarkable production gains in pastoral agriculture over the last three decades, especially in sheep farming.

AgResearch's plans will also destroy the Invermay-Otago University cooperation in deer industry research, begun soon after the industry started.

In the last thirty years New Zealand's ewe numbers have halved, and sheep farming has been pushed onto poorer land by dairying. Yet the quantity of lamb exported has stayed the same! This remarkable doubling of productivity is due mostly to genetic research out of the Dunedin cluster.

At the heart of this cluster is the science capability at Invermay, supported by Otago University and several Dunedin based private sector companies.

Destroying the Dunedin genetics cluster in favour of a proposed 'hub' at Lincoln is stupid. Otago University has the largest genetics capability in New Zealand, easily; Lincoln one of the smallest. The leading geneticists at Invermay have said publicly or privately that they will not shift to Lincoln anyway.

The repeated assurances from AgResearch that they will remain capable of delivering the necessary science are just not credible. They will not have the staff and they will not have the

Dunedin cluster. We do not believe them. We think they have made a serious error of judgment. AgResearch's logic for shifting is based on the advantages of 'colocation', and the need to shift out of old facilities.

But Invermay is already 'colocated' with Otago University, Abacus Bio, Zoetis and so on. And Invermay's facilities are the most modern AgResearch has.

Opposition is mounting strongly. The first opponents were managers within AgResearch itself, the so-called change management team [CMT]. They called for and received 245 staff submissions. They analysed them against AgResearch's strategic aims. They concluded that shifting three-quarters of Invermay's staff was wrong; instead they proposed a slight increase in staff.

But the CMT was ignored by AgResearch's chief executive. He said no.

Ram breeders have spoken very strongly against this plan. One of the Save Invermay Group and a former Director of Invermay, Dr Jock Allison, conducted a survey of ram breeder opinion, summarised below;

Table 1: Summary of responses to retaining scientists at Invermay

Number of Breeders	Yes	No	Abstain	No Response
394	363 (92.1%)	5 (1.3%)	11 (2.8%)	15 (3.8%)

92.1% of ram breeders said 'no' to the AgResearch proposal. That is an astonishing level of opposition. Yet AgResearch have dismissed the survey as 'biased'.

In addition Science Minister Steven Joyce dismissed a call from a meeting of around 100 farmers in Gore on March 12 that he review AgResearch's plans.

The following day the AGM of Beef and Lamb in Fielding demanded that AgResearch should

consult more widely with ram breeders. But AgResearch will interpret that motion as a need to 'better explain' their plans.

In other words AgResearch has not yet changed its mind.

So it is time to consider a more strident response. **What can you do?**

Please sign the Petition below. It is in the name of Save Invermay Group member Dr David Clark MP. Cut it out and send to his office.

Write a letter, to:

Prime Minister, John Key; Deputy Prime Minister, Bill English; Minister of Science, Steven Joyce, or Minister of Primary Industry Nathan Guy — c/o Parliament Buildings Wellington telling them it is time to stop this part of AgResearch's plans, before irreversible damage is done.

Go to the Save Invermay Website.

Learn more if you wish, and check out Facebook and Twitter

THANKS FOR READING THIS AND THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

From the Support Invermay Group
c/o Mayor's Office, Dunedin City Council,
Moray Place, Dunedin

"The Save Invermay Group" urges you to support their cause. Group members include:

- Otago Regional Chair Stephen Woodhouse;
- Southland Regional Chair Ali Timms;
- Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull;
- Dunedin North MP Dr David Clark;
- Otago Chamber of Commerce CEO John Christie;
- former Invermay Director Dr Jock Allison;
- former Science and economic Development Minister Pete Hodgson

Petition of Dr David Clark MP: Invermay

To the House of Representatives, we the undersigned:

Request that the House urge the Government to retain a world class science facility at Invermay, which lies at the heart of a Dunedin-based research cluster that continues to deliver proven benefits to New Zealand's pastoral economy.

Name	Address*	Email*	Phone*	Signature

Please return petition forms to David Clark, PO Box 6001, Dunedin 9058

* These fields are required if you wish to receive future contact from the primary petitioner.

Authorised by Dr David Clark MP, 32 Albany Street, Dunedin

