



Title: "Sulphur Mountain"

Description: Pile of sulphur used to manufacture farm fertilisers

Photographer: Henrik Moller

Where, when: Ravensdown fertiliser factory, Dunedin, February 2021.

Sustainability? The sulphur shown here is used to make fertiliser at the Ravensdown factory in Dunedin. This is the end of one of the batches that fill the entire store four times each year. The photo helps us grip what 17,000 tonnes of sulphur applied to pasture per year from this Dunedin store looks like.

Some see a sustenance and regeneration in the yellow pile - fertiliser maintains soil quality and keeps farmers and their families on the land to practice land stewardship, it keeps rural playcentres and schools going, and it contributes to the economy. For the Otago region, where agriculture provides \$759 million to regional GDP each year, that adds up to an annual lift of about \$350 million being sustained through this one store room.

However, others see just a corrosive threat in the yellow mountain. Intensive stocking, underpinned by fertilising, threatens river and stream health, and the biodiversity living there. Some conservationists want agriculture to be de-intensified. A lot of science and decision-support tools have been dedicated to reducing fertiliser inputs and to make sure that it is applied at the right time and places to minimise the amount reaching our waterways and ground water.

We badly need better conversations to form a consensus about future land care and land use options - perhaps photographs like this can help trigger those conversations between people that aren't talking much with each other so far?

Photo notes: This panorama is a stitch of approximately 50 exposures, each for 1/30s at 70 mm focal length, f/6.3 aperture and ISO-100.

Taking this photo seemed quite surreal. Eric Davies, a very co-operative Ravensdown safety officer posed in front of the pile for the shot. I was also stunned by the power of my Tamron 18-400mm telephoto lens – despite standing well back against the extreme opposite wall of the store (for occupational health & safety reasons), I could read the ink on the back of Eric's gumboots. For the record, he wears size #8 gumboots!

Digital specs: 23,007 x 6,826 pixels (157 MP).

Key words: Farm fertiliser, sulphur, soil health, water care, land care, intensive farming, Henrik Moller, Aotearoa, New Zealand, Sustainability.

Price: \$150 (incl. GST) for use of the digital image.

Visit www.ecosystemsphotography/sales for details & to order, and to get a quote if you want a high-quality print.

Donation: The price includes a \$100 donation to a sustainability organisation or project of your choice, or otherwise for the *East Otago Catchment Group* <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1547310312019600>.

We recommend that the donation goes to *East Otago Catchment Group* because they work in a community-led, collaborative bottom-up way to improve land and water care. Catchment groups draw town and country people together and find practical solutions based on local knowledge and energy.

Image Ref: HM#037 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence)