

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of of an application pursuant to section 201 for a Water Conservation Order on the Hurunui River

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF EDDIE MURPHY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHO HAVE RUN KAYAKING PROGRAMMES ON THE HURUNUI RIVER

Introduction

1. I am a Teacher of Physical Education and Outdoor Education at Christchurch Boys High School and have been in the role from 1999 – 2009. My previous teaching roles were with Hillmorton High School in 1998, and St Bede's College from 1990 – 1997. I successfully completed a Bachelor of Physical Education (Otago) 1985 – 1988 and a Diploma of Teaching (Christchurch College of Education) in 1989. I have been a recreational kayaker from 1989 to present, competent on white water grade 1 – 5.
2. I confirm that I have read and agree to comply with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses. This evidence is within my area of expertise, except where I state that I am relying on facts or information provided by another person. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions that I express.

Scope of Evidence

3. My evidence will cover:
 - a) Secondary school kayaking programmes and their use of the Hurunui River;
 - b) A personal recreational kayaking perspective of the Hurunui River;
 - c) A Teacher's perspective of why we need a WCO for the Hurunui River.

Evidence for the WCO Tribunal Hearing

Secondary School Kayaking Programmes and their use of the Hurunui River

4. I have conducted interviews with Teachers in Charge of Outdoor Programmes, at schools that currently operate or have operated kayaking programmes on the Hurunui River. They provided estimates of the range of student numbers involved in kayaking programmes and the years in which such school programmes have been running.

5. Six schools have regularly used the Hurunui River for kayaking education programmes, including Christchurch Boys High School, Shirley Boys High School, Hagley Community College, Cashmere High School, St Bede's College, Riccarton High School. Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti have used the Hurunui river in recent years. School kayaking education programmes have been running for some 13 to 21 years. In summary, approximately 3500 or more students have been involved in schools kayaking programmes on the Hurunui River during this time (see Appendix 1).

6. Secondary school use of the Hurunui River for teaching kayaking has been occurring since the mid-late 1980's (Shirley Boys High School and Riccarton High School). Some schools (Shirley Boys High School and Christchurch Boys' High School) have had a significant history of using the upper sections of the Hurunui river for kayaking. Other schools have used the Hurunui and continue to do so; Hagley High School, Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti, St Bede's College, Cashmere High School and Riccarton High School have utilised the Hurunui River in the past, but more intermittently in recent years. Riccarton High School's use of the Hurunui reduced when they developed an outdoor education lodge near the Arnold River. Staff involved in kayaking programmes cite the Hurunui river as a river with very good grade 1 to 3 river features, consistent river flows, good road access and close proximity to Christchurch. These factors make the Hurunui ideal for teaching white water kayaking skills and minimising associated risks when conducting such programmes.

7. Schools report that they often use the river for 2 – 4 day trips, where students participate in a full range of outdoor activities, including camping, cooking, river safety, group management and environmental conservation as well as white water kayaking.

8. In terms of teaching and learning kayaking, teachers involved in kayaking programmes report the Hurunui River provides ideal river conditions for beginner to intermediate learners. These include:
 - Proximity Hurunui River to Christchurch (1 to 1.5 hours driving time).
 - Good Grade 1 to 3 river features (flow, currents, eddy's, waves) in close proximity to each other giving good river depth/flow with distinctive eddies and main current features. These features are well placed along the length of the river or section to challenge students to develop kayaking skills from slow to fast moving water conditions.
 - The depth of flow enhances the river features and safety when instructing.
 - Good roadside access to a large proportion of the good kayaking sections of the river. The road is right beside the river. Road access enhances the usability of the river by kayakers and school groups, meaning you can put in and take off where ever suits the group. Road access also enhances the safety aspect for school kayaking should an accident occur. The ability to evacuate an injured student is always a consideration in outdoor activities.

9. With any Outdoor Education programme is an element of environmental education. In general this involves understanding the environment, in this case the Hurunui River, and the ecosystems that they harbour. Teachers reported designing programmes for students to identify threats to the environment and what action is needed to protect and preserve the environment for the long term. We want our students through their kayaking experience to recognise the importance of protecting our river environments. Overseas data clearly identifies the extensive damage rivers are sustaining primarily through intensive farming, waste disposal, mining activity and damming by power companies. Such business entities clearly understand the significant value and profitability of water and have the financial ability to buy

their right to the river. The Cree Indians in the United States have a saying: "When you have killed the last animal, eaten the last fish and polluted the last water, what is left? You can't eat money." Across the world, those needing that water for drinking, fishing, recreation and education are disadvantaged in terms of their ability to ensure their rights to rivers. Rivers are a limited resource in desperate need of protection and we work with our students to recognise this and through their experiences of kayaking on rivers, appreciate more the special nature of rivers, the threats posed to them and the action necessary for their long term protection.

10. Other rivers on the east coast of the Canterbury, such as the Ashley and Waipara River lack flow or are too braided (Lower Waiau, Lower Hurunui, Waimakariri, Rakaia, Ashburton, Rangitata) to allow for distinctive river features that make for a good teaching river white water kayaking. Hence most white water kayaking in Canterbury occurs on the upper sections of the Hurunui River. The Hurunui has a reasonably good water flow throughout the year to allow for year round kayaking. The Clarence and Ashley rivers for the most part lack regular sufficient flow levels for kayaking and are more isolated from road access. On the Clarence, river running beyond the Acheron river confluence is not viable for schools due to its isolated and remote character.

A personal recreational kayaking perspective of the Hurunui River.

11. I grew up learning to kayak on the Hurunui River, and on a personal level, I believe that the excellent white water features, combined with consistent flows all year round, have meant I have developed to the level of kayaking I enjoy today. Without such a good grade 1 - 3 kayak-friendly river in relative close proximity to Christchurch, the opportunity to learn kayaking would be very much compromised. Other alternative rivers have limited flow throughout the year, poor river features or a considerable distance from Christchurch. Over 20 years of kayaking, I have derived considerable enjoyment on the Hurunui river. I have particularly enjoyed taking friends and family kayaking with a wide variety of skill levels on this special river. They too have felt the excitement and exhilaration of white water kayaking. River conditions make it a safe and yet challenging stretch of river. Many other people kayak on the

Hurunui and this provides an opportunity to meet and socialise with other people who are an important part of my community – quite a few have become long term friends. I feel very fortunate that with so many other recreational kayakers I have grown up with this fantastic white water experience, and would like to see it protected for future generations.

A Teacher's perspective of why we need a WCO for the Hurunui River

12. We teach our students that it is imperative to preserve our environment for future generations. Evidence from overseas highlights the significant impact that people and industry have had on not only rivers but many wildlife environments. I'm concerned that in New Zealand we will lose more and more of our special wild places, one of which is the Hurunui River. Other countries are slowly and painfully realising what they have lost. Given the world wide loss of wild rivers, protection should be foremost in our minds.
13. Water is a very valuable resource and there are a lot of power companies and farmers interested in the Hurunui. Current arrangements under the Resource Management Act mean that competing interests apply for resource applications for building dams for power or irrigation. It appears an unfair battle as business entities have superior resources to employ lawyers and experts to argue their case. Schools and recreationalists do not have the resources to fight every battle. Without protection, I am concerned that we will lose the Hurunui.
14. I encourage my students to question why one group would have more right to scarce resources to another. Why should these businesses and their quest for profits have more of a right to the Hurunui than recreationalists? Why should the business activity of a few come at the expense of the environment and other users?
15. A WCO would provide long term protection for the river and its associated ecosystems and users.

CONCLUSION

16. Canterbury schools have been using the Hurunui River since the mid-late 1980s and over 3500 students have used the river. The Hurunui provides an ideal location for teaching white water kayaking, given the quality of the river and its access to Christchurch. The Hurunui is also a relatively safe learning environment, with road side access important for ensuring quick and safe evacuation is possible in case of injury. As well as learning a new skills and developing confidence, students also learn about their environment and the importance of conservation.
17. On a personal level, the Hurunui has been an important part of my development as a kayaker, and is an important community resource, allowing me to take friends and family with a wide variety of skills levels out boating.
18. I believe that given in New Zealand and across the world, our wild places are being destroyed; we need to actively ensure that we protect the special places that are important to us. I support the application for a WCO for the Hurunui River.

Eddie Murphy

Appendix 1

Canterbury High School Kayaking Usage of the Hurunui River								
	Christchurch Boys High School			St Bedes College	Shirley Boys High School	Riccarton High School	Hagley College	Cashmere High School
TIC	Dave Ralston							
TIC	Richard Taylor			Eddie Murphy 1991-97				
TIC	Eddie Murphy & Gary McNaughton			Bruce Cameron 1998 - 2009	John Field	Neil McKeegan	Dave Hazeldine	Neil Sloan
1988								
1989								
1990								
1991				approx 20-30				
1992				Students	averaging 25 - 30 students since 1988	sometime in 80's until mid 90's	Going to Hurunui for 19yrs taking between 20 -45 students for a 4 day camp	
1993				1991 up until 2000	4 day kayak camp	12-16 students OE	A third of the	
1994	started kayaking on	40-50		2 -3 day kayaking program				Since 1994
1995	Hurunui	students					group paddle each day after the first day	20 - 40 students per year
1996		2 -3 day camps					Use the Jollybrook to Maori Gully Section	3 day trips camping at Jollybrook
1997		Total						
1998	Yr 12	Yr 13						
1999	49	18	67					
2000	63	22	85			Early 00's		So over 15 yrs some 600 odd students
2001	59	26	85	approx 12-16 students up to 2003		Moved to Kokiri School Lodge		Cover Kayaking and
2002	49	22	71	involved in a 3 day program				River Crossing
2003	66	26	92					
2004	64	16	80					
2005	88	24	112			still go up for one day trips as		

