

**Form 30**  
**Submission on publicly notified application for water conservation order  
or for revocation or amendment of water conservation order**

*Sections 205 and 216, Resource Management Act 1991*

**To:** Special Tribunal - Hurunui River Water Conservation Order  
c/- Alex Miller  
Ministry for the Environment  
PO Box 10362  
Wellington 6143  
( or e.mail [alex.miller@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:alex.miller@mfe.govt.nz) )

**Copy to:** Hurunui River Water Conservation Order  
c/- Maree Baker  
Anderson Lloyd  
Private Bag 1959  
Dunedin 9054

Name of submitter:

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This is a submission on an application from the *New Zealand and North Canterbury Fish and Game Councils and the New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association* for a water conservation order for *Hurunui River*.

My submission covers and supports all of the application, but in particular relates to pages 21 – 40 which summarises the following values to be preserved or protected:

- the outstanding amenity and intrinsic values
- the outstanding habitat for terrestrial or aquatic organisms
- the outstanding fishery
- the outstanding natural characteristics, wild and scenic values
- the outstanding recreational attributes
- the characteristics that are considered to be of outstanding significance in accordance with tikanga Maori

My submission is: [*include –whether you support or oppose the order; and the reasons for your views. Describe here your experiences on the Hurunui, and why it is important to you that it is protected. Attach further information if you wish to*].

I support the water conservation order application for the Hurunui River Catchment, Lake Sumner and the Mandamus. \_

I have kayaked the Hurunui for many seasons, tramped and mountain-biked in the Lake Sumner area and camped in many parts of the Hurunui catchment.

To have access to unspoilt wilderness, knowing that there are still places human beings haven't exploited, is vitally important to the emotional and spiritual well-being of many people. Whether we visit these areas often or seldom, knowing they are there for us when we need them is important for many of us who live and work in cities and cannot have wilderness and open spaces as part of our daily lives.

To feel okay as a human being living in these times, we need to know that the tide of progress fuelling our insatiable need for energy and water isn't going to infect every corner of our country. There must be wild areas of the country within easy reach of large population centres so that city people can access nature and young people can grow up with the experiences that only wilderness can offer them. The emotional regeneration trampers, campers, kayakers, hunters, fishermen, cyclists, horse riders, artists, ecologists and all other visitors gain from time in areas such as the Hurunui is vital to our well-being and will be severely compromised if there are dams on the rivers.

Several years ago I was introduced to the compromised wilderness of Tasmania, where the experience of immersing oneself in the natural environment was constantly and harshly interrupted by the everpresent pipes, powerlines and unnatural lakes which are a part of the package that comes with creating dams. This is not what we want for the Hurunui.

The need to 'get away from it all' is very strong in some people and being able to satisfy that need is vital for many of us to function well in our lives. Not all people have this need, and therefore many cannot understand it in others, but it is very real for those of us who have it.

The Hurunui is only two hours drive from Christchurch, an easy distance to travel in a day, and gives a wide variety of wilderness experiences, such as I have mentioned. Many of these activities will still be possible if the river is dammed, but the experience will be significantly and immeasurably diluted by a degree that matters very much to many people who value the catchment.

I seek the following decision from the special tribunal:

That the Hurunui River Catchment, including the South Branch, Lake Sumner and the Mandamus River are preserved in their natural state in perpetuity.

do not wish to be heard in support of my submission

Signature of submitter (or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter)

Rima Herber .....

Date 27 11 08

(A signature is not required if you make your submission by electronic means.)

Address for service of  
submitter: 21 Stoke St,  
Sumner

Christchurch

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Contact person: [*name and  
designation, if applicable*]