

Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society

Ashburton Branch

Submission in support of a Water Conservation Order for the Hurunui River

I write on behalf of the Ashburton Branch of Forest & Bird in support of a Water Conservation Order for the Hurunui River that will protect the river and keep it in its natural state.

The Hurunui has outstanding natural characteristics and is a wild and scenic river. As well it has outstanding recreational attributes that will have been identified by many other submitters. The biodiversity of the river would be severely compromised were it to be dammed. The health of the native fauna and flora of the river would be affected most severely were the natural flow regime interrupted by a dam.

I request that the Tribunal approve the Water Conservation Order to keep the Upper Hurunui, including the Mandamus in its natural state and to extend the conservation order to the lower Hurunui to secure flows and protect biodiversity.

We wish to speak to our submission at the hearing. (This was omitted from our submission dated 4 December).

Warren Jowett
Committee member
Ashburton Branch of the Royal forest & Bird Protection Society.
Staveley, RD 1, Ashburton 7771
ecotour@nature.net.nz
03 303 0880

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Tussock & Beech Ecotours
ecotour@nature.net.nz
www.nature.net.nz
ph +64 3 303 0880
Staveley, RD 1, Ashburton 7771, NZ
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