

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

Name of submitter: **Alan Charles Bell**

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*.

The application concerns the Hurunui River and its tributaries, in particular all of the tributaries and associated lakes upstream of the Mandamus River confluence as well as the mainstem of the Hurunui below that confluence to the sea. The application concerns all of the associated lakes and lochs which lie upstream of and which feed into the Hurunui River.

The reason for the application is that the water bodies and associated open spaces constitute a significant natural area where the general New Zealand public have visited, hunted, fished, walked and kayaked for many decades but the value and outstanding features are at risk from development for irrigation and hydro-electricity. The intention is to save this area from development so that future generations can enjoy this part of the NZ outdoors in the same way that we are able to do at present.

The specific parts of the application that my submission relates to are:

My submission relates to all parts of the application but primarily the kayaking perspective.

My submission is:

My submission is in unconditional support of the WCO application.

I believe that Lake Sumner, the Hurunui River and its associated smaller lakes and tributaries constitute a unique and wonderful combination of water bodies which have high value for outdoor recreation especially fishing and kayaking and which lie close to Christchurch. The easy access to such water bodies from a large city gives people from all walks of life a chance to experience the real world and get away from the stresses and confines of city life.

From a kayaking perspective the Upper Hurunui Gorge provides a variety of levels and grades for both new and experienced kayakers. Lake Sumner provides a buffering effect on flows but still allows natural variation to occur. The Jollie Brook section provides easier (Grade 2) opportunities while the Maori Gully section provides easy Grade 3 at low to moderate flows and Grade 3-4 at high flows. This makes the area suitable for a wide range of participants.

I consider the Hurunui River to be nationally significant, especially the Maori Gully section and it is complimentary to the harder grade Rangitata Gorge (South Canterbury). I kayaked the Maori Gully section in 2002 and can still remember the experience, even though I am kayaking rivers continually. I would include the Maori Gully run on any list of "to do" whitewater runs in New Zealand.

I seek the following decision from the special tribunal:

I urge the Special Tribunal to consider the comprehensive information in the application and to allow the WCO to proceed so that future generations of New Zealanders can enjoy the natural flows in the Hurunui River catchment forever.

I wish to be heard in support of my submission.

If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.

Alan Bell

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

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Date 6 December 2008

Address for service of submitter:

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

**Note to submitter**

You must serve a copy of your submission on the applicant as soon as reasonably practicable after you have served your submission on the special tribunal.

The special tribunal may require you to provide further information on your submission.