

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: [alex.miller@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:alex.miller@mfe.govt.nz) (ie: Tribunal - Hurunui River Water Conservation Order  
c/- Alex Miller, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143)  
CC: [maree.baker@andersonlloyd.co.nz](mailto:maree.baker@andersonlloyd.co.nz) (ie: legal counsel for the applicant)

Name of submitter:  
Ian Malcolm Gill-Fox

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 Applicants consider that the amenity and intrinsic values of the Hurunui River and its associated lakes and tributaries are nationally outstanding and should be recognized and sustained by a Water Conservation Order.

The Hurunui River and its associated lakes and tributaries are under increasing threat from major irrigation and hydro-electricity proposals. The Hurunui River needs robust and durable statutory protection to ensure that future generations are able to continue to experience its outstanding values.

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

My submission covers and supports all of the application, but in particular relates to:

- paragraphs 39-42 of the application, which summarises the outstanding amenity and intrinsic values of the waters, and
- paragraphs 96-115 of the application, which address the outstanding recreational attributes of the Hurunui River.

My submission is:

I support the granting of the Hurunui Water Conservation Order.

This is a personal submission and so briefly puts my own personal reasons for valuing the Hurunui and wanting a WCO. Other submissions will detail other aspects of the Hurunui's importance to paddlers and I support those but won't repeat them here. For the record though, I am presently the Instruction Officer for the White Water Canoe Club so I have a keen interest in the Hurunui's importance as a nurturing ground for new paddlers.

I began whitewater kayaking in 1984 when I was 16 so I've now been paddling for around ¼ of a century or about 2/3 of my life. I first paddled on the Hurunui in 1989 and it is by far the river I have paddled the most – I stopped counting the number of runs I'd done on the Maori Gully section when I

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got to 300 and I have no idea what I'm up to now but it's quite a few more than that. This is not just because of its proximity to Christchurch, but because I enjoy it so much. I will often choose to go to the Hurunui rather than another river because of how much I like it.

*The Hurunui varies immensely with flow meaning I can get an entirely different paddling experience depending on the amount of water in it. Not all rivers exhibit this degree of character change with flow and in my experience it's actually very rare so this variability is critical to me and must be protected. The scenery is great with little intrusion from human impact, there is a good variety of plant (including one of only 3 known instances of rata in Canterbury) and birdlife and the area has a very relaxing atmosphere. It's simply a cool place to hang out.*

*I'm not sure I have space to write just how important the Hurunui is to me personally, but as an indication I have a tattoo across my shoulders that incorporates an accurate depiction of Maori Gully so I hope that gives you an idea of what this place means to me. No matter where I am if I think of a river the Hurunui always springs to mind first. I paddle it all year 'round and in all kinds of weather. I paddled it the day before my wedding with my best man and usher, and I paddled it after I seperated. I've made most of my friends while on the Hurunui and I expect to make more while there too.*

*I am a kayaker and the Hurunui is my home. I'd lke it left the way it is.*

I seek the following decision from the special tribunal:

I seek a decision from the tribunal to grant the Water Conservation Order for the Hurunui river

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.

Signature of submitter (or name if sent electronically, or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter)

Ian Gill-Fox .....

Date 11 December 2008

Address for service of submitter: 540 Cashel Street, Linwood, Christchurch 8011

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Fax/email: retrokx@gmail.com

Contact person: [name and  
designation, if applicable]

**Note to submitter**

You must copy of your submission to the applicant as soon as reasonably practicable after you have served your submission on the special tribunal. If your submission is by electronic means, this is accomplished by CC-ing the applicant's legal counsel as at the top of this form.

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