

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: Philip Earl & Bernadette Earl

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 seeks a Water Conservation Order for the preservation and protection of outstanding features held by the following waters:

- The mainstem of the upper Hurunui River and all of its lakes, tributaries and contributing waters (including hydraulically connected groundwaters) from its source in the Main Divide of the Southern Alps down to immediately above its confluence with the Mandamus River (Upper Hurunui Waters).
- The mainstem of the lower Hurunui River from immediately above its confluence With the Mandamus River down to the Sea (Lower Hurunui River).

It is stated within the application as applied for that 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.

It is also stated that the Hurunui River and its associated lakes and tributaries are under increasing threat from major irrigation and hydro-electricity proposals and therefore 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:

The whole application.

My submission is:

I oppose the order for the following reasons:

We farm 298 hectares in the Scargill Valley, predominately sheep. Over the years our stock numbers have decreased due to increasingly dry conditions. Ewe numbers were at 2200 now down to 1950 currently. We used to run over 600 hoggets but last year only managed to run 315. Cattle numbers have also decreased from 50 bulls to 28 heifers this season. The heifers were only on the property from April through to mid

December due to dry conditions .The property used to have it's own spring water source ,but for two seasons now this has run dry. This spring was used to supply all stock water and domestic supply for the property.

Without the proposed water harvesting scheme our farm will become economically unviable.

Water harvesting could improve our farm viability by being able to finish stock .

Improved pasture growth would ensure adequate feed at mating time thus improving the lambing percentages.

The farm would become a more viable unit by being able to diversify into crops and/or other horticultural use. Currently spring crops don't develop and winter grown crops fail to full, resulting in shrivelled grain.

- I do not believe the characteristics of the Upper Hurunui as outlined in the Application can be considered outstanding. The same characteristics are present on a number of other Rivers in the Canterbury Region.
- I do not believe the characteristics of the Lower Hurunui as outlined in the Application can be considered outstanding. Again the same characteristics are present on a number of other Rivers in the Canterbury Region and this is also a modified environment.
- If it is finally determined that the characteristics outlined by the Applicant are outstanding for both or either of the Upper and Lower Hurunui the final Conservation Order to be issued on the Hurunui must take into account the needs of primary and secondary industry, and of the community. Prohibiting the ability to develop the Hurunui water resource is contrary to this requirement as outlined in s207(b) of the Resource Management Act.
- The Application submitted by the Applicants is unclear on how the outstanding features supposedly present are to be protected. The Application provides no detail on any water allocation regime to be implemented.
- The Application is an additional process to the proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan, the Hurunui District Plan, the Hurunui River Management Plan and the Canterbury Strategic Water Study. All of these processes have considered the values that need protecting and how they should be protected. It is a waste of tax payer resources to consider further protection of the Hurunui River.
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I seek the following decision from the special tribunal:

- That the application for a Water Conservation Order on the Hurunui be declined.

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* person authorised to sign
on behalf of submitter)

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Date 10th December 2008

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

Address for service of submitter:

Telephone:033143816

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Contact person Philip &
Bernadette Earl

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.