
Submission on an application for an amendment to the Kawarau River Water Conservation Order

To: Special Tribunal – Kawarau River Water Conservation Order
C/- Alex Miller, Ministry for the Environment,
PO Box 10362,
Wellington 6143
alex.miller@mfe.govt.nz (submissions can be sent by email to this address)

Name of submitter: My full name is Nigel John Harwood

This is a submission on an application from New Zealand and Otago Fish and Game Councils for an amendment to the water conservation order for the Kawarau River, which relates to its tributary, the Nevis River. The application seeks to recognise the Nevis River's outstanding values – wild and scenic characteristics; back country trout fishery; natural characteristics, in particular outstanding natural landforms; trout spawning habitat; adult trout habitat (trophy trout); native fishery habitat; scientific – biogeographic river capture; historic and cultural values.

The application seeks to protect those outstanding values by adding a prohibition on damming and diversion of the river and adding a condition on water takes so as not to breach a minimum river flow.

I support the whole application

My submission is that I support the proposed amendments to the order both to recognise those outstanding values mentioned above and to add a prohibition on damming and diversion of the river and conditions on minimum river flow.

The reasons for my submission:

I value the ability to visit unmodified rivers. The Nevis has healed itself since the gold mining days and provides a wilderness experience not available to many. It is the only river flowing in the Central Otago area that has not been modified by dams or extensive irrigation off-takes. Given the limited value of damming the river (40 MW which is approximately the greater Queenstown maximum load as I understand it.) is minimal in the country's scheme of things; it should be left alone as an iconic natural and historical heritage item.

It provides an inkling of the privations that pioneers, both Taungata Whenua and European, had to endure. The historic remains of dredging add to the significance of the area in that they compliment the natural landscape.

I tend to catch and release trout in rivers and so find the fishing limits on the Nevis to be appropriate. The river is suitable for day trips and picnicking. I understand that people far braver than me enjoy river canoeing during strong flows.

I seek the following decision from the special tribunal:

To recognise those outstanding values of the Nevis River identified by Fish and Game in the Application.

To add a prohibition on damming and diversion of the river and to add minimum river flow conditions to protect the river.

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission.

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

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

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Date 11 September 2008

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

Address for service of submitter: 35 Garden Place, Dunedin
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Fax/email: nigel.harwood@paradise.net.nz
Contact person: [*name and designation, if applicable*] Nigel Harwood

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 applicants' address for service is:

*By post: Otago and New Zealand Fish and Game Councils
C/- Anderson Lloyd
Private Bag 1959
DUNEDIN*

By fax: (03) 477318

By email: maree.baker@andersonlloyd.co.nz)