
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 Malcolm John Hodge

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 – bio geographic 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 first visited this magnificent valley some ten years ago during a four wheel drive trip from Cromwell to Garston. As I stopped at the top of the track and looked down on the Valley for the first time I was blown away with the rugged beauty of the valley and the Nevis River as it snaked its way down to join the Kawarau River. Over the years I have been back on many occasions not only to fish the untamed Nevis River, but also to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the Valley and the company of those few people who choose to live or holiday in the area. My fishing experiences have been outstanding with a number of trophy trout caught and released and many lesser but still magnificent trout falling to my rod & line. I have chosen to introduce a select few of my fishing associates to this largely unknown area and they, like me, have come to cherish and value highly the unique aspects of the valley and in particular the Nevis River.

I recent years I have become more familiar with and interested in the history of the area, the gold mining and early settlement that existed in the Valley. This in turn has lead to an association with one of the local landowners, who has a passion for the Valley and river which I have come to share. In addition to my ongoing fishing activities in the Nevis River, I and a group of friends now regularly visit the valley for a summer sports tournament and during the winter for a curling tournament. My wife and I also visit just to walk the hillsides and take in the "feel" of such an

unspoilt landscape. To often now such natural beauty and history is lost to the greed of developers to satisfy the insatiable desire of their shareholders.

As one of the last remaining natural River Valleys in Central Otago, The Nevis River and Valley must be protected at all costs so as to allow present and future generations to enjoy and marvel at what once existed throughout the whole of Central Otago.

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

M J Hodge.....

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

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Date 15th September 2008

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

Address for service of submitter: 136 Mt Iron Drive Wanaka.
Telephone: 03 443 6881
Fax/email: Email: mhodge.signode@xtra.co.nz
Contact person: [*name and designation, if applicable*] M J Hodge.

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)