

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

To : Special Tribunal – Kawarau River Water Conservation Order
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Name of submitter: Michael Alan George Wilkinson

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

The reasons for my submission:

I have visited the Nevis Valley recreationally for the last 6 years, since moving to the Central Otago area. I moved with my family to the area for a change of lifestyle and an opportunity to experience the outdoor pursuits the region has to offer. In an area with so many waterways effected by power generation and irrigation channels and draw off, it was refreshing to first visit the Nevis valley. I first entered the valley 4 wheel driving, the climb to the summit from Bannockburn sporting breath taking views, only to be eclipsed by the unique beauty of the valley itself. I followed the river valley through and over to Garston and have continued to do so 2- 3 times annually. I take my children to see the history of the mining in this valley, as they are still young, 5 & 7, I fear what altering this vally will have on the chance for my children to enjoy this valley in thier future. I have only fished this river a couple of times, but have always envisaged taking my sons fly fishing the Nevis valley and taken for granted the availability of this resource as always being there. I understand the signicance of the lower flats for the spawning grounds for the resident trout and belive the construction of a dam will greatly effect the future of trout in this valley. I strongly believe there is far to much to lose from altering this water source with very little to gain and so strongly support Fish & Games application.

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.

Regards
Michael Wilkinson.

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Date: 16/09/08

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