

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

To: Special Tribunal – Kawarau River Water Conservation Order
C/o Alex Miller, Ministry for the Environment
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Name of submitter: Kenneth Raymond Drew

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, 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 fully 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 reason for my submission:

About 25 years ago my two teenage sons and I push biked through the Nevis from Garston to Bannockburn – camping on the way. We had a memorable time with the fantastic scenery of mountains, tussock and the river as well as being unexpectedly exposed to some history through old stone relics, a cemetery and some gold mining. We were fascinated by spending some time with elderly goldminers who worked some of the area in the summer time. My grown up sons now still remember with fondness that trip. It was a significant educational experience.

In more recent times I have visited the valley with friends from Bannockburn and still enjoy the rugged open atmosphere where the river is a focal point. It must remain in its wild original form. Please see that it is protected.