

Special Tribunal - Kawarau River Water Conservation Order,  
c/o Alex Miller,  
Ministry for the Environment,  
Wellington.

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

My Full name is: Alan Francis Mark.

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 Nevis River tributary. The application seeks to recognise the outstanding environmental and ecological values of the Nevis River, particularly its wild and scenic characteristics; historic and cultural values; back country and natural features, in particular its outstanding natural landforms and indigenous fishery habitat. This later feature is indeed unique in the existence of indigenous *Galaxias gollumoides* species which has recently been found to reveal the unusual biogeographic history of 'river capture' in the Nevis catchment within the Central Otago region (see Fig. 34 and p.104 in Darby, et al., 2003), as well as recognizing the internationally significant patterned wetlands at the source of the Roaring Lion tributary of the catchment (Dickinson et al., 2002).

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

I unreservedly support the whole application.

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

My reasons for this submission:

I know the Nevis River and its entire catchment very well, having been involved as one of the scientific advisors of the Protected Natural Areas ecological survey of the Old Man Ecological District in 1983-85 (Brumley 1986) which included the eastern side of the Nevis catchment, and later detailed research of the Nokomai wetlands in the southern end of the catchment (Mark et al., 1995; Dickinson et al., 2002). Many features of the Nevis catchment are nationally and indeed, internationally unique, to the extent that its values justify recognition with a formal water conservation order. Some of the many important landscape features would be seriously compromised by major development of the catchments hydro-electric potential.

I seek the following decision from the Special Tribunal:

- a). To recognise those outstanding values of the Nevis River identified by Fish and Game Council in their Application.
- b). To add a prohibition on damming and diversion of the river and to add minimum river flow conditions to protect the river.

I wish to be heard in support of my submission.

Alan F. Mark FRSNZ; DCNZM. Emeritus Professor. 18 September, 2008.

Address for service as a submitter: Telephone: 479 7573 (wk); 476 3229  
(pte); Fax: 479 7583;  
Email: [amark@otago.ac.nz](mailto:amark@otago.ac.nz)

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