

Special Tribunal
c/- Alex Miller, Ministry for the Environment,
PO Box 10362
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Name of Submitter: Gerald Telford

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 landforms; trout spawning habitat; adult trout habitat (trophy trout); native fishery habitat; scientific-biogeographic 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 flow.

The reasons for my submission

I'm a full time professional hunting and fishing guide. The Nevis River is the only undammed recreational fishery below the Southern Lakes in the Central Otago Region. Not only does it offer outstanding fishing but the landscapes are outstanding. My clients, 95% of whom are from overseas are in awe of this valley and fishery, to them it represents a reminder of the once great fisheries they had in their home countries before many of them were dammed or modified and as a result have been greatly diminished as fisheries.

To have access and simple access, by this I refer to road access to a river and valley that is off the main tourist track is now a rare thing and should be valued greatly for what it offers not only as a trophy fishery but as an expanse of tussock landscape and rocky outcrops with the Remarkable Mountains as a backdrop.

The access drive from Bannockburn also provides a view to Mount Cook 190kms away, there are not many places in the world, if any where you can glimpse a country's highest mountain on the way to a wild trophy trout fishery. What a disappointment it would be to find a hydro impoundment and dam structure as you descended to the valley.

There are not enough rivers left in New Zealand that offer such a vast range of landscape and recreational opportunities that the Nevis is able to offer. Rivers like the Nevis are a finite resource.

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 wish to be heard in support of my submission. I prefer to be heard in person.

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

Gerald Telford

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