

Submission on publicly notified application amendment of the Kawara River Water
Conservation Order

K527
Received 22/4/03

To : Special Tribunal – Kawarau River Water Conservation Order
c/- Alex Miller, Ministry for the Environment,
PO Box 10362,
Wellington 6143

Name of submitter: My full name is: Glen Irving Miller

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 better 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.

My submission is that I support the proposed amendment to the order both to recognize 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:

The landscape as a whole in the Nevis Valley has not changed since my first visits with my father as a young boy. From the valley behind Bannockburn we climb what seemed like a mountain witch was a long, steep, bumpy, dusty and a hot climb to reach a point where we could see beyond and below us a landscape and river I have returned to so many times since.

My father often spoke of this valley. When he first came here it was full of deer and big fish large spiky grasses and a scenic wonderland for a camera.

My father is no longer with us and the hills no longer have the big numbers of deer and as the years went by the old vehicle remains left by some of the old mining people have also gone. But I have brought another generation to this valley and they have walked its river edges and caught its big fish and returned them each and every time. They have sat up on the banks and watch these trophy trout in there native habitat in such clear waters it is hard to explain in words the tranquility there before them. They have like so many new comers to the valley passed through on mountain bikes and motor bikes in the summer months and gone back by means of four wheel drive just for the snow covered scenery. I have been with groups of people through the valley and listened too many who have spoken on these trips on the history of those who came before us and also visited the historical remains. Each time these groups bring back many of the same people and many new faces to. Each year more people seem to be finding out about this excellent precious treasure. It is a recreational experience that is just so accessible for all to share.

To have seen this valley in full flood and it is a sight to behold. If for any reason the last major flood waters had been slowed by any unnatural means I am sure the whole valley as we know it would be jeopardized for ever. Nature would show no tolerance in scaring this valley beyond reconstruction.

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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.


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Signature of submitter: Glen Irving Miller

Date: 16-09-2008.

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