

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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My full name is Gregory James Turner

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 Rivers outstanding values – wild and scenic characteristics; back country trout fishery; natural characteristics, in particular outstanding natural landforms; trout spawning 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 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 reasons for my submission:

I have fished and visited the Nevis for 15 years. Aside from some memorable and glorious days of fishing, I have had the pleasure of camping and picnicking with my children. The Nevis is an exceptional backcountry experience in every way. And as distinct from those rivers which flow from the Alps, it offers reasonably easy access for the less able. The combinations of landscape features that are present combined with the free and natural flow of the river are mesmerising.

Experience tells us when these type of environments are modified they both lose much of their natural appeal and the fragile habitats that they support are compromised. With so many back country river environments under pressure from all manner of users (from power generation to increasingly intensive farming, most especially dairying), every remaining one is becoming more and more precious. How many more do we wish to deny future generations from enjoying and experiencing?

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.

Sincerely your

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