

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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Name of Submitter: **John Innes BARLOW**

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 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 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 Nevis River and the valley through which it flows are a treasure seldom to be found in a world where man's destructive powers have laid waste to much of the natural world. To dam the river for a relatively small amount of power would be a catastrophe for our region and I believe for the rest of New Zealand. New Zealand's main point of difference in a crowded and degraded world is that there are still some wild and open spaces to enjoy. Undoubtedly the Nevis River and Valley is one such.

I first visited the Nevis in the late 1970's and did not return again until 1995. I have fished the river 2 or 3 times each year since. These days the fishery receives a lot more pressure but essentially the experience is undiminished - an intimate river providing trophy-sized fish in a high semi-alpine setting. Truly a remarkable fishery that meets all the requirements of Section 199 (1)(a) of the Resource Management Act.

In summary a spectacular trophy trout fishery but also a Valley of breathtaking landforms through which an ever-increasing number of people travel, Garston to Cromwell or vice versa, just to experience this high and lonely place with it's heritage of gold mining and tough back-country farming.

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.

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

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