

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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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.

I support the whole application

My submission is that I support the proposed amendments to the order both to recognise those outstanding values mentioned in the application and to add a prohibition on damming and diversion of the river and conditions on minimum river flow.

I support the application as a New Zealander who, while sharing a desire for energy availability, would like to see the conservation of our special areas given priority. As someone who is reasonably well traveled both nationally and internationally I consider that the Nevis tributary is a very special area of New Zealand and indeed the world; I believe that this area holds value as a scenic and recreational resource far beyond its potential as an infrastructural resource. As a New Zealander I believe that there is potential for the region and the country to become much poorer as the result of infrastructural development on the Nevis River through a lack of foresight to protect this valuable scenic and recreational resource.

My Wife and two daughters and I recently enjoyed a spectacular 4wd trip through the Nevis valley and my wife and I both enjoyed the sense of remoteness and departure from civilisation that this remarkably accessible area was able to offer. As a keen Mountain Biker I have also participated in the legendary 'Banockburn Gutbuster' Mountain Bike race in which I was able to share these same senses with hundreds of fellow competitors. As a keen white water kayaker and fisherman I enjoy and appreciate the recreational values of the river itself. All of these characteristics rely heavily on a lack of infrastructural development in the Nevis tributary catchment.

Many friends and myself consider the Nevis valley to be one of the main "Jewels in the Crown" of Otago/Southland and as ratepayers, tax payers, citizens and voters, would be horrified and deeply disappointed in those vested with the responsibility of representing New Zealanders' needs should this area be allowed to remain at risk of being spoilt.

I believe that the 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 represents the appropriate custodial direction for the Nevis River.

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