

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. 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 – bio geographic 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:

We support the decision for the following reasons,

The Nevis River is recognised as having outstanding fishery values.

This River is accessible to most people in Central Otago most other rivers of this type a pristine wild fishery are quite remote and access is difficult and time consuming.

We need to preserve this type of experience particularly for people working in urban areas, who at times are working under extreme pressure, having the ability to shed their cares, and spend time in this type of unspoilt remote areas at holiday time, can do a lot to preserve their wellbeing.

It is important that we allow rivers to behave in a natural state, that they are allowed to flood, to cleanse debris, silt etc, this helps preserve our coastline and the 28 species of commercial fish that begin their life in our estuaries, it also helps preserve our coastline.

Flooding also helps with the removal of unwanted algae like didymo etc.

A dam placed on this river would prevent fish running up from the Karwarau to spawn.
The Nevis River produces trophy Brown and Rainbow Trout.

We also object to any interference with this river from an Iwi perspective and all that entails.

Maori believe that their through their Whakapapa, humans are descended directly from their atua. Their kin therefore include all other children of the atua. These children of the atua represent all the life forms and physical features of the natural world. Everything stems from the same source.

Everything is living, in its own right, and has a mauri and wairua. This includes the birds, fish, trees, plants and all the geographical features of the environment.

When we make our submission to the tribunal we will flesh out our submission.

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.

This submission is made on behalf of

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Date

2008-09-24

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