

Submission on an application for an amendment to the Kawarau River Water Conservation Order

To : Special Tribunal – Kawarau River Water Conservation Order
c/- Alex Miller, Ministry for the Environment,
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Name of submitter: My full name is *Karl Frederick Sawyer*

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 reasons for my submission:

Even though I have only fished the Nevis River once before it was one of the highlights of my South Island fishing experience. A friend and I spent the summer of 2003/2004 working on orchards around the South Island and had one month picking cherries in nearby Alexandra. On one of my days off I made the trip up and over the Nevis crossing (the spectacular views of the trip over the crossing were a highlight in itself) and down into the Nevis valley. I had heard about the Nevis River through reading John Kent's South Island fishing guide and the possibility of catching trophy trout. Even though the day started out overcast and gloomy it quickly cleared up and I had a great day catching and releasing four (by memory) good sized brown trout up to 6lb and all on the dry fly. The clarity of the water and the unique landscape made fishing the Nevis River a memorable experience. Currently I am living in London and being here makes you appreciate how good the natural resources in New Zealand are and the recreational opportunities that come with them. Here in London I see lots of television and magazine ads promoting New Zealand's 100% pure image and I hope that the amendment to the Water Conservation Order is successful so we can continue to promote NZ as 100% pure. I hope to do another fishing trip to the South Island in the next few years and the Nevis River will be one of my destinations providing it has not been spoilt by dams and/or water irrigation.

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 (due to being overseas).

Karl Sawyer.....

Signature of submitter
(or person authorised to sign
on behalf of submitter)

25 September 2008.....

Date

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