

To :

Special Tribunal - Kawarau River Water Conservation Order
c/- Alex Miller, Ministry for the Environment,
PO Box 10362,
Wellington 6143

From David O'Neill
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Christchurch
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My full name is David John O'Neill. I am making this submission on behalf of myself and my descendents whom I hold in trust within the person of me and their children and their descendants. I have full authority to speak on their behalf as they are unable to do so for themselves.

As Maori claim the right to represent the view of their Whanau and Tupuna. I claim the right to represent my descendants and in doing so claim to know what values they will be likely to respect.

This is a submission in complete support of 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 ; native fishery habitat, historic and cultural values.

The application seeks to protect those outstanding values for future generations of New Zealanders 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 in order to ensure that the generations of New Zealanders to follow us will be able to continue to savour and cherish at least one area of what is left of the wild and scenic parts of New Zealand lost due to population growth, urban encroachment and inevitably diversified land use.

The reasons for my submission:

That by the time my descendants get to visit the Nevis if a dam is ever built there they will inevitably ask the question. Why. Why was this necessary the technology we have today is such that this is not even needed and look at the legacy they have left us.

Technology is advancing at such a pace that it is already not necessary to consider a dam or any other development of the Nevis River and within a generation not to mention 2 or 3 we will be trying to tear down dams (as they are already doing in Canada and the US and trying to find ways to restore what once was.

Or alternatively that when they my descendants (and yours) visit they will be able to find peace and solitude in a rare pristine valley far from the crowded world that has become theirs and they will be able to say thank you to our generation for having the foresight to preserve something of such value. This has significant cultural value to me. It is important to me that my descendants will not think ill of me or of any other member of the generations that have gone before them. I fear that if this river were to be modified and dammed you and I would have no value to the generations to come and we will lose any honour or respect. These are not selfish values. They are culturally ingrained. We as a society build memorials to those who have gone before and we recognise their lives and achievements and sacrifices. Let us leave the Nevis as it is as our memorial to our vision, our values our culture and to our children.

The photographs I have now of the Nevis and the accounts we as a generation have now of our time they will have meaning that will be lost if this application is not granted and the river and valley is allowed to be developed for commercial reasons.

This application seeks to not only save the history, the scenery, the peace, the solitude, the landscape, and the fishing of the Nevis valley. It seeks to save its future.

I on behalf of myself and all of my descendants seek the following decision from the special tribunal:

To recognise the outstanding values of the Nevis River as have been 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. But if others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.

Signature of submitter.

On behalf of himself and his descendants.