

Submission on Water Conservation Order - Oreti River (Form 30)

Section 205, Resource Management Act 1991

1. In completing your submission include:

- whether you support or oppose the Order; and the reasons for your views
- If you support the Order, but prefer to preserve a different but related water body in the same catchment, state this and your reasons
- If you support the Order, but prefer to preserve different features and qualities of the water body, state this and your reasons.

In giving reasons for these preferences, you must refer, if practicable, to the matters set out in sections 199, 200 and 207 of the Resource Management Act 1991. You must also describe the provisions that you think should be included in the Order and the effects that those provisions would have on the water body.

2. If you oppose the Order, you must give reasons why you consider that the Order is not justified in terms of sections 199 and 207 of the Resource Management Act 1991.
3. The Special Tribunal may require you to provide further information on your submission.
4. You must send a copy of your submission to the applicant as soon as reasonably practicable after you have served your submission on the Special Tribunal.

Submissions must be received by the Special Tribunal at its address stated below by 5pm on Wednesday 15th November 2006.

Submission: To the Special Tribunal, Oreti River Water Conservation Order

SUBMITTER'S DETAILS	
Full name:	JOHN FULLWOOD KENT
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Work phone:	Home phone: (03) 337 9370
Work fax:	Home fax:
Mobile:	Email address: silverdoctor@snap.net.nz

SUBMISSION DETAILS (use additional pages if required)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We support the application	<input type="checkbox"/> I/we oppose the application
1. * The specific parts of the application that my/our submission relates to are:	
<p>I endorse all sections of the "summary of application" as printed over leaf.</p>	
2. * My/our submission is (see notes 1 and 2):	
<p>see attached notes</p>	



3. * I/we seek the following decision from the special tribunal
(give precise details, including the general nature of any changes sought to the Order)

I support the Water Conservation Order being placed on the Oreti River to protect this unique river from any development damming, water extraction or pollution.

Tick if applicable

I/We want to be heard in support of this submission

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

Signature of submitter

[Handwritten Signature]

Date: 4/11/06

*Use additional pages if required
Return by 15 November to:

The Special Tribunal
Oreti River Water Conservation Order
Ministry for the Environment
Te Waipounamu House
Level 7, 158 Hereford Street
PO Box 1345
Christchurch

And as soon as practicable to:

NZ and Southland Fish & Game Councils
C/- Anderson Lloyd Caudwell
Otago House
10th Floor
Moray Place/Princes Street corner
Private Bag 1959
Dunedin

Summary of application

The applicant seeks protection of:

- the main stem of the Oreti River upstream of Mossburn
- Weydon Burn, Windley River and all other tributaries upstream of Lincoln Hill
- Groundwater connected to the surface water of the river from Mossburn upstream to the headwaters

In recognition of the following outstanding features and characteristics

- Natural state, wild and scenic
- Fishery and angling amenity
- Habitat for trout and wildlife
- Value in accordance with tikanga Maori,

The outstanding features and characteristics are to be protected by prohibiting damming; restricting the taking of surface water and groundwater, restricting alteration of river flow, form or water quality; and the maintenance of fish passage.

The applicant also seeks protection of the main stem of the Oreti between Mossburn and the bridge at Wallacetown, for:

- Its necessary contribution to the outstanding angling and fishery values upstream.
- This necessary contribution is to be protected in this stretch by a prohibition on damming, which will enable fish passage to be maintained.

The application is supplemented by further information provided to the Minister in July and August 2005.

IN SUPPORT OF A WATER CONSERVATION ORDER ON THE ORETI RIVER

Since 1989, I have written trout fishing guides for New Zealand. These books describe 700 rivers and 150 lakes and the guides have been updated every three years. I have personally fished or visited over 90% of the rivers described. In 2004, David Hallett photographer and I won the Lifestyle and Contemporary Culture Section on the Montana Awards for our book, Classic Fly Fishing Rivers of New Zealand. In this book, I selected the Oreti River as one of the 16 classic rivers of the South Island.

I have fished in Montana, Idaho, Alaska and Washington and my partner has fished in Argentina and Chile. We have given programmes at the annual International Fly Fishing Conclaves in the USA and spoken with many of the worlds' best anglers. Despite the widespread pollution and degradation of New Zealands' lowland rivers over the past 10 years, New Zealand still rates as the world's best destination for sight fishing for large trout. On the basis of my personal experience and the opinion of other international anglers, the Oreti River would rate in the top 10 in the world for sight fishing for large brown trout. I personally think the section of the Oreti River upstream of the Windley confluence, is the best in the world. Were this river in the USA, it would be privatised and rented out to anglers for \$300 per day and there would be a queue of anglers waiting to fish it.

Fishery biologists I have spoken with seem unsure as to whether the large fish in this upper section are sea-run. On this basis, I think it is very important to protect the whole river and not just the upper section. Fish passage from the estuary to the headwaters must remain unimpeded.

I feel extremely angry that anyone in their right mind would want to destroy or degrade this world rated trout fishery. However, as we are still so naive and dollar driven in this country a Water Conservation Order must be placed on the Oreti to protect it for future generations.

J. F. KENT (Dr)

