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MFE - South Island Office

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

Section 205, Resource Management Act 1991

- 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.

- 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.
- The Special Tribunal may require you to provide further information on your submission.
- 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:	Daniel Anthony Agay
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Work fax:	Home fax:
Mobile: 021 569 698	Email address: danielagay@xtra.co.nz

SUBMISSION DETAILS (use additional pages if required)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I/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	
The whole application	
2. * My/our submission is (see notes 1 and 2):	
I have fly fished throughout NZ for over 27 years and rate the upper Oreti (above Mossburn) as my favourite river. This is high praise given that I have bush bashed into some of the most remote rivers in NZ including the Roaring Lion and Ugly rivers pto	
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)	

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in the Tasman Wilderness Area, as well as a number of the Fiordland Rivers.

Why do I rate the Oreti River above Mossburn so highly? For a number of reasons. The large average size of the trout is well known. It is an attractive river, and although it runs along the highway and back roads for a number of kilometers, the access points above Mossburn, are well thought out.

To one side of the river is the highcountry with glorious red tussock and pockets of South Island beech. The few ten kilometers or so of the 'walk in' zone offer a true wilderness experience and thankfully helicopters are excluded.

The Oreti, is a national and international treasure and is well known around the world because of its beauty and the large average size of its fish. The catchment in the upper river is largely unmodified, it is farmed extensively and consequently the water runs pure and crystal clear which means it is easy to 'sightfish'.

The purity of the water means there is a wide range of benthic macroinvertebrates, mayflies, caddisflies and especially stoneflies are abundant in the clean waters. Due to degraded water quality, many of these species found in the Oreti are no longer present in other Southland rivers and streams.

As the upper river flows through an ^{largely} unmodified catchment, there are still extensive stands of red tussock, sadly the same cannot be said for the rest of Southland. The red tussock is the home for the cicada and in the height of the summer, trout gorge themselves on these large, noisy insects. The cicada hatch on the Oreti is world famous.

It is important for anglers, both local and international to get out and experience New Zealand fishing. The upper Oreti is rare in that it

offer a wilderness type fly fishing experience and yet is still reasonably accessible. It is conveniently placed for day trips, being close to Queenstown, Te Anau, Gore, Invercargill and even Dunedin.

As it is a high country river, in fact alongside the Manaroa, one of only two in the Southland region, it clears quickly after rain.

This was vitally important for me during my five years of guiding. When all the Southland rivers, were broken and dirty the Oreti was fishable.

The upper Oreti is indeed a National Treasure and I hope it will remain protected for all to enjoy.

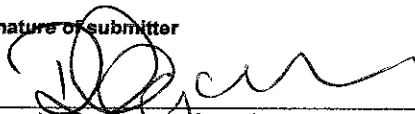
I want the tribunal to grant the order in the form it has been applied for.

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



Date:

November 6th 2006

*Use additional pages if required

Return by 15 November to:

The Special Tribunal
Councils
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
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.

