

043



## 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.

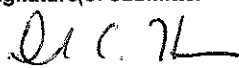
2. If you oppose the Order, you must give reasons why you consider that the Order is not justified in terms of sections 199 and 207 of the Resource Management Act 1991.
3. The Special Tribunal may require you to provide further information on your submission.
4. You must send a copy of your submission 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 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006**.

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

SUBMITTER'S DETAILS	
Full name: David Charles Harris	
Postal Address 30 Baxter Street, Invercargill 9810	
Work phone: 03 218 5981	Home phone: 03 215 6068
Work fax: -	Home fax: 03 215 6057
Mobile: 027 201 6722	Email address: dcharris@southnet.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 entire application.	
2. * My/our submission is (see notes 1 and 2):	
<p>The Oreti River is a very important river in Southland and is presently under threat from pollution, water extraction and possible modification for hydroelectric generation.</p> <p>The river, especially the upper reaches provide excellent trout fishing. For this to continue the water quality and volume need to be maintained and free passage needs to be providing for migrating trout. Anything that affects the river anywhere will have a significant effect on the fishery. The Upper Oreti fishery is very significant as it is a headwater fishery that is easily accessed and is within reach of the average New Zealander, unlike many other headwater fisheries.</p> <p>It is important that rivers of this fishery value are protected for use by all New Zealanders and the resources that allow this fishery to exist are not hijacked by commercial interests for their own profit at the expense of the recreational river users. The upper section of the river is still in a virtually natural state and has special characteristics.</p> <p>The river is also an important habitat for native wildlife. It is home to 10-20% of the population of black billed gulls and 5-10% of the population of black fronted terns. Both these birds are endangered. Loss of the Oreti habitat for these birds</p>	

<p>would be a serious threat to the total world populations. The ground water in the areas above Mossburn is well connected to the river and any draw off of water from these will have an almost direct effect on the water flows in the river. Any reduction in flow associated with irrigation would almost certainly go hand in hand with increased pollution from the resulting intensification of the farming. The combined effect is then a significant degradation of water quality.</p>	
<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)</p>	
<p>Approve the order as applied for.</p>	
<p><b>Tick if applicable</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I/We want to be heard in support of this submission</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.</p>
<p><b>Signature of submitter</b> </p>	<p>Date: 8/11/06</p>

\*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  
10<sup>th</sup> 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.