

Form 30  
Submission on publicly notified application for water conservation order  
or for revocation or amendment of water conservation order

*Sections 205 and 216, Resource Management Act 1991*

**To** Special Tribunal, Oreti River Water Conservation Order

**Name of submitter:** Oreti Irrigation Water Users Group

This is a submission on an application from New Zealand Fish and Game Council and Southland Fish and Game Council for a water conservation order for the Oreti River.

*[Briefly describe the application and the reasons for the application.]*

The application seeks protection of the main stem of the Oreti River upstream of Mossburn including several key tributaries and aquifers; the application also seeks protection of the main stem of the Oreti between Mossburn and the bridge at Wallacetown for its contribution to outstanding angling and fishery values by prohibiting damming so that fish passage is protected.

The specific parts of the application that my submission relates to are:

*[give details].*

This submission relates to the Oreti River downstream of Mossburn.

This submission relates to the groundwater resources of the Oreti River catchment downstream of Mossburn insomuch as they may be affected by aspects of the application.

My submission is:

The confined groundwater aquifers in the Oreti River catchment between Lumsden and Mossburn are extensively used for irrigation water supply purposes. Eight of these groundwater users have collaborated to prepare this submission under the name of the Oreti Irrigation Water Users Group. We are the dominant water users in the catchment with a combined allocation of about 8.1 Mm<sup>3</sup>/year of water.

Significant technical assessment has been undertaken in the Oreti River catchment as part of the resource consent process to demonstrate that while the confined aquifers obtain recharge from within the catchment, they are isolated from the main stem of the Oreti River and do not discharge into the Oreti River. We are not opposed to the protection of angling and fishery values in the Oreti River provided that the groundwater resources of the confined aquifers are expressly excluded from any Water Conservation Order provisions.

We have lodged this submission in order to be involved in the process of considering the Water Conservation Order so that the interests of the current groundwater users and the ability of future generations to undertake further sustainable development of irrigation from the confined aquifers is not jeopardised. We consider that the main stem of the Oreti River is able to be protected without limiting the communities ability to develop the confined groundwater resources.

We can provide the Tribunal with detailed hydrogeological evidence (if required) showing that the confined aquifers do not affect river flows in the Oreti River at a hearing. This evidence shows that these water supply aquifers are confined below claybound gravels and that they are isolated from direct hydraulic connection with the Oreti River and its major tributaries.



I seek the following decision from the special tribunal:

If an Order is granted, then the wording must be clear and unambiguous to future generations regarding the extent of the Order in relation to groundwater resources.

I wish to be heard in support of my submission.

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

Signature of submitter  
(Craig Evans, Senior Hydrogeologist, MWH New Zealand Limited  
On behalf of Oreti Joint Irrigation Water Users Group)

10 November 2006

Date

(A signature is not required if you make your submission by electronic means.)

Address for service of submitter: MWH New Zealand Limited, PO Box 4, Dunedin

Telephone: 03 474 3969

Fax/email: 03 477 0616 / craig.evans@mwhglobal.com

Contact person: [name and designation, if applicable] Craig Evans, Senior Hydrogeologist  
Environmental Science & Planning Group Manager

**Note to submitter**

You must serve a copy of your submission on the applicant as soon as reasonably practicable after you have served your submission on the special tribunal.

The special tribunal may require you to provide further information on your submission.