

Submission on Water Conservation Order - Oreti River

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.

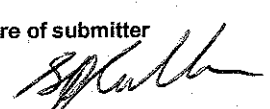
Submission: To the Special Tribunal, Oreti River Water Conservation Order

SUBMITTER'S DETAILS	
Full name:	Stephen James Cullen
Postal Address	413 Ellis road, RD 3, Lumsden
Work phone:	Home phone: 03 248 6198
Work fax:	Home fax: "
Mobile: 025 362 139	Email address: Stephen.Tracey@Woosh.co.nz

SUBMISSION DETAILS (use additional pages if required)	
<input type="checkbox"/> I/we support the application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I/we oppose the application
1. The specific parts of the application that my/our submission relates to are:	
See our attached page	
2. My/our submission is (see notes 1 and 2)	



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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)	
Tick if applicable <input type="checkbox"/> I/we want to be heard in support of this submission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.
Signature of submitter 	Date: 12/11/06

*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.

I oppose this application on the grounds there is no need to put a protection order on the Oreti River as Environment Southland are already doing a perfectly adequate job of overseeing our environment.

As a farmer and license paying fisherman that boundaries the Oreti River, I am very concerned to find Fish and Game feel the need to put a protection order on the Oreti River which could have the potential to lock up an asset for all Southlanders to enjoy – not just fishermen.

I can only begin to imagine the restrictions this order could impose on all river users in the future. Environment Southland have my full backing when it comes to managing future development and the environment in our region.

Environment Southland when making decisions on anything take into account benefits to people and also any negative impacts on the environment.

I note from Fish and Games' application, damming is prohibited. I can only guess they are concerned there could be future damming for power generation and/or irrigation purposes. None of us know what future technologies are around the corner to mitigate any adverse effects on the environment with these types of development therefore why would anyone want to put a protection order on the Oreti River or any river for that matter.

As a proud southlander, I would ask the tribunal to reject this application on the grounds it would be to full and final whereas if it was left with the status quo, under Environment Southland's guidance, I believe this would serve all Southlanders far better into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. G. Smith', written in a cursive style.