

To: The Central Plains Water Trust, Environment Canterbury, The Christchurch City Council, and The Selwyn District Council.

My name is **Gordon Pole Dennis**. I live at the western end of the Hororata Fault line and farm both sides of the fault line which extends from Glenroy to Homebush.

I farm 5 soil types - Mayfield stony loam, (10 hectares) Ruapuna silt loam (20 hectares), Mairaki silt loam (70 hectares), Glenroy hill soil and Coopers Creek complex soil.

My submission of 30/5/2007:

- 1/ I object to the compulsory acquisition of freehold land, for the underground tunnels and canals and water storage area.
- 2/ This would impact on the many farmers who are set to have their farms disrupted.
- 3/ I object to the effect on the social
- 4/ Environmental +
- 5/ Economic impact on Canterbury.

I wish the whole project cancelled.

1/ My objection to the compulsory acquisition of freehold land was confirmed to me on that emotively chilling night in the Glenroy Hall when Mr Doug Marsh claimed our Wairiri Valley for a dam.

I was Secretary for the Hororata branch of the National Party in the good old days of Jack McAlpine and Colin McLauchlan. In those days the National Party stood for a property owning democracy. I warned our executive that I believed the day was coming when Governments would be walked over by multinational companies owing no allegiance to New Zealand. Look what we have now. I had a friend from Switzerland who told me that three of his mates who milked 20 - 30 cows in Switzerland joined forces together to take over a Russian State farm where they milked more than 400 cows. Now I understand it is Russian money financing dairying in Waimate and now Darfield.

American millions at Te Pirita, and Japanese millions at Dunsandel.

Sirs, we have sold out to the multinationals. Electricity supply in Wellington has just been sold to the Chinese.

So Doug

Marsh claimed our land for a lake and a dam above the Glentunnel township.

I enjoyed the play My Fair lady and a line from it sums up my opinion of Doug Marsh's claim; "What a wicked, heartless, brainless thing to do".

First. What wickedness to take our land, destroy our business, destroy the Wairiri Valley.

Second Point: What disruption, what volcanic risk to the townships of Glentunnel and Coalgate.

This May there have been 6 earthquakes in Selwyn.

This June there have been 4 earthquakes in Selwyn and the June report ends with "There are 6 fault zones within the Selwyn District Council"

Any one of these could cause a damaging earthquake.

To conclude my first point: I object to the compulsory acquisition of freehold land.

But wait; Glenroy has a reprieve. Andrew Scott of Kirkstille tells me that C.P.W. Trust have shifted their acquiring thoughts to his farm at the mouth of the Sheffield Valley, and are going to put a dam through all his sheds and homestead area.

CPW Trust have found another set of farmers to disrupt.

CPW Trust have found another set of farmers to compulsorily acquire their freehold land.

But I have yet to hear their thought on the Wairiri Valley. Has their plan irrevocably lifted from our valley?

Is our valley Plan Two of the dams in the Malvern Hills?

I move to my Point 3:

The first Dennis I have read of is Saint Denis, Bishop of Paris, sent from Italy by Pope Fabian to convert the Gauls in the 3rd Century. He was beheaded on the highest hill in France, the mountain of Martyrs, a Druid Holy Place.

In 1868 my grandfather Samuel came to the Canterbury Settlement, first to Annat, then in 1879 to Glenroy, so we have always farmed and loved our Malvern hills.

My farm was bought by my grandmother, Sarah Ann Potts Pole in 1905, 103 years ago. Her brothers Richard and Tom Pole taught in Annat, and Kimberley. The Malvern Public school opened in 1875 between Waddington and Sheffield. Also the South Malvern school at Whitecliffs where my Great Uncle Richard Pole taught. My Great Uncle Tom Pole taught at Hororata, he being the first of 5 generations of my family to serve the Hororata School.

Point 3/ The Social Impact. My great, great Grandfather on my mother's side was Henry Williams who came as an engineer to the Homebush Coal mine. It was a sad trip out on the Brothers Pride as 44 passengers died. My great great Grandmother was buried at Lyttelton Heads, being the 43rd to die.

My point is that since 1863 our family have lived in and loved the Malvern Hills, which now are under attack.

In 1899 my grandfather's family spent their Christmases in Bush Gully which was the home of my great Uncle Richard and Aunt Alice. Indeed it's our family tradition that the eschscholsia (those beautiful poppies seen in the Waireka riverbed) came from Aunt Alice's garden.

This is to show my family involvement in the social fabric of the Malvern Hills, and indeed I am only here today because my father survived Gallipoli and France in the First World War. Six of his school mates from Glenroy gave their lives that we might be free in Glenroy and the Malvern Hills.

My father-in-law worked on Homebush as a stable boy and teamster, ploughing the land with horses, and catching eels in the swamps. He then served New Zealand in the Cavalry, as a mounted rifleman in the Sinai Desert in World War 1.

My earliest memories of Homebush are of visits as a child to those splendid Horticultural events which were held there, and so I congratulate Mr and Mrs Deans on still having open days for the public.

May NO dam and NO canals pollute that which we know as Homebush, or our beloved Malvern Hills.

Point 4: Environmental Impact.

Firstly, I have known and loved our Malvern Hills. I have mustered Roundtop to Snowy Peak at Windwhistle for the late Miss Elizabeth Richards.

I have seen the coal mines from the Acheron to Clearview, and the anthracite mine at Glenroy, and the coal mines at Coalgate and the Sheffield Valley. I have picked up coal from the Hororata river.

I have ploughed through the springs at the top of the Harper hills with a team of horses . My horse Maud, while galloping along slipped on a volcanic rock. As I lay trapped with my leg under her body, in some agony I must say, I saw little red spiders running in and out of the boiled holes in the rock. Then I realised what a fuss our Lord had gone to to give even spiders their correct environment.

From further down the valley those volcanic rocks were taken to build our Hororata St Johns Church, an inspiration for almost 100 years.

The red oxide deposit found on these hills was mixed with linseed oil to paint the farm buildings. Bentonite clay is found in the Hororata riverbed and also on top of Bishop Harper's hills. There is sand to be found in the 1000 acre swamp and also on top of the Harper hills. There is a ridge of sea shells rising above the floor of the Wairiri valley. All of these point to seams of coal, clay, sand, shell, lime and peat. Surely this is a very unstable base.

To be enjoyed, yes, environmentally enjoyed, but not abused.

I wish to talk about the rivers now.

I was washed off my feet where the Crow and Ante Crow creek meet the Waimak. With rifle and pack on my back and nearly drowning I realised the river had been here before even the Maoris had hit New Zealand and I had just broken a natural law, just as CPW wish to break it again.

I have run beside a woman who had jumped to her death off the Rakaia Gorge bridge. I ran fast but she went under. I couldn't save her.

I have driven sheep across the Selwyn ford on the Bealey Road and I have pulled cars and trucks from the Waireka ford, and I myself have got caught in a gut in the Hawkins ford. I have carted good concrete shingle from the Hawkins river upstream from Mr Semple's bridge. Mr Semple could well take his bridge away now because irrigation bores have meant there is no water there now.

Which brings me to a very interesting question. Ladies and Gentlemen. Why did the Selwyn District Council build the two other bridges on the Bealey Road when fords were sufficient? And the only water in the Selwyn when that bridge was opened officially was the drum of water our very own Bill Woods tipped over the side?

Now the name Central Canterbury Water Trust. I am very wary of the word 'Trust'. Who can you trust? Fancy the two Councils only having 1 share left each.

Wasn't the Selwyn Plantation Board a Trust to shelter Canterbury from the nor'west wind and provide firewood for the inhabitants? So now we see the disruption, distortion and devastation caused by this mad rush to irrigate Canterbury. Because of the drawing of water from deep wells which Environment Canterbury has allowed we have seen the gradual disappearance of water from the Hawkins, Waireka, Selwyn and Hororata rivers.

Now they plan to destroy the two main rivers - that is the Waimak and the Rakaia.

When I think of our Malvern Hills of Canterbury, of the physical features of the

country, I cannot help but think of the people who have lived here, every one of whom makes up a part of my memory and without any of whom that we now know would not be our Malvern Hills. In 1864 Bishop Harper wrote that there was not a tree between Christchurch and Hororata. What foresight Mr T.W.Adams had with experiments with trees. By 1886, after trying many types of trees he recommended the trees suitable for timber for Canterbury: pinus insignis and cupressus macrocarpa. Mr T.W.Adams was an expert on trees and by 1908 he grew 800 varieties of trees and shrubs. His work with trees became of national and international importance.

The same can be said for Sir John Hall who planted them across the fearful nor'west wind. My father walked beside my grand father as he planted trees to shelter the Glenroy school in the 1890s. The strongest wind in the southern hemisphere comes from the Rakaia Gorge.

Yet the Selwyn Plantation Board cuts down the protecting trees. Remember the winds described by Lady Barker of Steventon.

For the first 18 years I lived at Bradford Creek, Glenroy, sheltered by trees. When the house was first built the young mother sheltered under big tussocks with her baby when the nor'west blew in case the house blew down.

Trust! I doubt it. Trust the Christchurch City Council when they are acting guarantor for 4.8 million dollars made to CPW Trust by Dairy Holdings and two other dairy farms, and Christchurch City Council holds a \$1 share.!

Trust Bob Parker! I doubt it. When the Deanses, early settlers in Riccarton were shifted to Homebush for Christchurch expansion. And now Bob Parker's crowd are itching to ruin our Malvern Hills of Homebush.

Trust Bob Parker -- when as Mayor of Akaroa he sold Banks Peninsular to Christchurch!

Trust Christchurch City Council when they take good market garden land for housing!

Buchanans Road and Marshlands.

Trust the Selwyn District Council when they denuded Canterbury of our protective nor'west shelter!

Trust CPW to preserve Canterbury's unique heritage!

Trust CPW when they hide behind the bogey of climate change to advance the need for irrigation! If you believe in climate change drought is going to be a regular occurrence on the East Coast of New Zealand.

I have letters written in 1919 to say how dry it was down country. Nothing has really changed. Global warming cries Jim Anderton, not drought, yet I see the frosts of winter are as cold, the snows of winter are as difficult to contend with as ever. The heat of summer is the balance we need.

Now Mr Pat Morrison and Co are clutching at straws to prove their need of irrigation.

Years ago 600 sheep were shorn at Kirwee and driven to Hororata, left beside a new wire fence and 600 were dead along the fence in the morning. With all the shelter trees gone I expect we will see mobs of cows dead beside a single electric wire.

Trust the Government with their Kyoto obligation, green house gases!

Trust Ecan when the inhabitants of Christchurch are freezing in their electrically heated home!

Trust! Who can you trust?

CPW Trust! I doubt it. Never the less we have lived through Black Budgets, Mother of all Budgets and Governments of all shapes and sizes, But Trust? Who can you trust? CPW Trust --I doubt it.

May I conclude my opposition to CPW Trust : I reaffirm my wish that the whole project be cancelled. I agree with the words of the Chairman of the Dump the Dump crusade, November 12th ,1999, when Mr Pat Morrison said Quote: "Big business and the Canterbury Councils are riding roughshod over the community again,"

I agree with Pat and wish the whole project cancelled. Thank you. Gordon P Dennis.