

IN THE MATTER

of the Resource Management Act 1991
("the Act")

AND

IN THE MATTER

of applications by the Central Plains
Water Trust (CPWT) and Central Plains
Water Ltd (CPWL) and the Ashburton
Community Water Trust (ACWT)

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE BY KAY MARIE OXLEY

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Kay Marie Oxley. I live at 3072 Coaltrack Road in Coalgate with my husband, Roger and our 8-year-old twin daughters, Meg and Abi. We have lived in Coalgate for 5 years now. Please note that Roger is one of the 84 submitters who is included as part of the Malvern Hills Protection Society (MHPS) submissions. I have also read these submissions and fully endorse them as well.
2. Roger was born in Christchurch to parents who lived and worked on a farm in Springbank, near Rangiora. Roger's parents moved back to Christchurch when he was 2 years old, where Roger completed his schooling. When he was 21, Roger moved up to '4221 Trust', a working rehabilitation farm to work with street kids, drug addicts, and any other youth referred there by Government Agencies who then lived and worked on the farm as opposed to jail sentences. The farm was situated in Waitakere, on the outskirts of West Auckland. Rog also spent time on Barrier Island and on a farm near Kaipara Harbour and these experiences are where he developed his love of country life.
3. I was born in Waihi, a small rural town in the Coromandel, before moving to Christchurch with my family when I was 5. My aunt and family were share milkers in Orini, about 40 minutes drive out of Hamilton and we spent some great family holidays on the farm. When I was 22 I moved to Hamilton and while I lived in the city I went to my aunt's home on my days off and there also developed my love of living in a small rural town with a city within 40 minutes drive or so.
4. Because of these experiences, when Rog and I were engaged, there was no other choice for us but to live in a small rural township as this was by far the best scenario for us and for raising any children we may have. So 16 years ago we travelled around areas from Rakaia through to Sheffield to find the area we wanted to settle in, and a house and section that suited us, and our lifestyle. So in October 1992 we bought a small cottage on a ¼ acre section about 2.5 kms out of Hororata Township, which bordered onto the Hororata Reserve and was surrounded by paddocks. Our cottage had a beautiful old coal range on

wetback and this was our only form of heating water. It was an experience getting used to lighting the fire when it was a 35 degree typical Canterbury nor'wester outside and we needed some hot water! I still, to this day, miss my coal range, as it was a 'simple' life that we enjoyed.

BACKGROUND

5. For background on our move to Coalgate, and our abhorrence of the CPW scheme, I need to digress to happenings in Hororata, which have affected our view of the Selwyn District Council (SDC) and so-called 'community consultation'. We found out soon after moving to Hororata that the Canterbury Gliding Club (CGC) used the Hororata Reserve area nearest our house for flying their gliders, because they started flying over our house with monotonous regularity. This took a bit of getting used to as while we expected typical rural noise to be part of the rural lifestyle, having small planes take off and land over your house every 10 mins or so on weekends and public holidays was not pleasant. As this activity was only for approximately 30 days a year we were happy to accommodate this intruding noise as it was limited and we often went out on the busy flying days so we didn't have to cope with the noise.
6. This all changed for us in late 1997 when it was put to us that the Canterbury Gliding Club was going to shift their entire gliding operation from the Wigram Airfield to the Hororata Reserve. A petition was sent to the SDC and numerous opinions were sought from the SDC and our understanding was that the CGC would need to apply for Resource Consent to increase their operations and this would allow us, as affected parties, to have a say in this. Things went quiet and we assumed, wrongly, that we would be notified as to when submissions would be sought etc on the increased usage of the Reserve land. Imagine our surprise, some years later (2001) when we found out that not only were the CGC working directly with the SDC to extend their lease and increase their flying days from approx 30 to 145 days a year, but we also had height restrictions on all the surrounding properties and over the entire Hororata Reserve and that the SDC had not even had the courtesy to notify the affected landowners. The height restrictions were only discovered because our neighbour wanted to plant some trees on their property and knew there was an underground water pipe nearby and didn't want to hit it. The SDC then informed them about the height restrictions. I believe even the Hororata Reserve Management Committee did not even know about these restrictions!! After much consideration and because of the lack of consideration by the SDC we felt it was worth moving away. Our house was also too small because our twins had arrived and were growing fast and it was time to for us to upgrade.
7. We definitely wanted to stay in the area as we like this part of Malvern and so in early 2003 the hunt was on for a nice house with more land that was not in such close proximity to the CGC operations. Coalgate is a township that we had dealings with; friends lived there, we visited the local pub for meals and takeaways, our cars were serviced at the local garage and we drove through Coalgate to get to Darfield. We loved the view that Coalgate had of the

foothills and the mountains in all directions to the north and west. We loved the small quiet rural village concept, after living 2.5 kms from Hororata Township and not really being involved in the local community and we loved the small local 2 teacher rural school in Glentunnel 2 kms from Coalgate.

8. We found the house that suited our needs and that had those things that were important to us and so we sold up and relocated to Coalgate. We have since found that Coalgate is a wonderful little village that has a real sense of community. There is a strong township committee which works hard on behalf of Coalgate residents. There is a real sense of people looking out for their neighbours, village Christmas barbeques in which the whole village is invited give a sense of belonging and a chance to meet and greet new neighbours who have moved into the village since the last Christmas party! The local Postie knows you by name and gives little gifts to all the children on the local post run at Christmas and has not missed a child yet! Where else in Canterbury would you find such a family oriented village? We also loved the views that surround Coalgate and lend to the character of the village. Our dream home was found in the most perfect rural village in New Zealand and on June 1st 2003 here we came to stay!



Picture 1: View from our back yard towards the Waianiwi Valley – where else but in a rural village could you have ‘the good life’?

9. During our time looking at properties in the Selwyn area, we never saw any information on LIMS and PIMS indicating that the site of the Dam would be relocated to the Waianiwi Valley. If we had known that this was a possibility, even though the area had such huge appeal to us, we would have thought more carefully before moving to Coalgate.

CENTRAL PLAINS WATER

10. We first heard about the CPW scheme through the letters to the Editor pages in the local newspapers while we still lived in Hororata. This was when the Wairiri Valley was the preferred valley to dam up. We also had friends who lived on the Downs Road who had found out that their properties would have canals through them if the CPW scheme for the Wairiri Valley went ahead. Concern did cross our minds at the thought that moving into Coalgate would place us at risk should the Wairiri Valley dam collapse. We certainly thought that the SDC would most definitely inform and consult with those communities that were directly affected by the CPW scheme. Especially since the small parts we did read about touted the scheme as being a 'public' one. While we were aware that the SDC was very remiss in their consultation and handling of the Hororata ratepayers / CGC fiasco we were sure that on something so large, so impacting and 'public' that we would be well informed as ratepayers. We had friends involved with the Dam Action Group (now the Malvern Hills Protection Society) and they kept us informed as to what was happening via emails, newsletters and word of mouth. From CPW – we heard nothing. The Waianiwaniwa Valley then became the preferred site for the dam and suddenly the concern became very real for us. The view from our back yard would now be of the dam face if this scheme got the 'go-ahead'. A very worrying thought – however we still thought we would be consulted and informed by CPW as the process continued. How wrong we were.
11. We had no idea how to get information about the scheme nor were we told how to access information either. The MHPS kept us informed and up to date with information that they had found out and what processes would be followed. In the 5 years we have been in Coalgate I am aware of only one public meeting arranged by CPW sometime in March 2006. This was to talk about the safety of the dam and I came away with more questions than answers. There was no documentation given out at the meeting and we still were at a loss as to our safety if the dam failed or collapsed. Ironically a copy of The Dam Safety report arrived at Rosalie Snoyink's home the very next day. It was a pity that the document hadn't been available the evening before when many people were keen to see it. We were certainly told that it was far more dangerous to drive or fly than to die from dam collapse. I understand that the risk may be small however the risk is still there and one that is very real for my family and I. The only other meetings I remember were a drop-in set up by CPW at the Coalgate pub, which I was unable to attend and also a meeting arranged by the MHPS Society. I attended this meeting but did not hear much of what was said because I was assisting in the kitchen with the afternoon tea provided by the locals.
12. An article was put in the newspapers after The Dam Safety Re-assurance meeting in Glentunnel that showed the height, flow and direction of water should the dam fail right down to Te Waihora, Lake Ellesmere. It was most disconcerting to read that they **only** expected about 300 losses of life and most of those would come from the village of Coalgate. Very cold comfort for us. I

will expand on this further on in my submission as I relate how this scheme has affected my family and I.

13. I am extremely grateful to the MHPS as they have been the only ones who have kept my family and I informed on the progress and process and indeed even information about the scheme. Without them we would not know anything about this awful scheme. They were the ones that let us know that we needed to make submissions to the SDC so that our views were heard. They were the ones that found out information and kept us informed. SDC and CPW have been sadly absent in the information and consultation stakes, which is incredibly disappointing to us.

EFFECTS ON MY PROPERTY AND FAMILY

14. Our property is situated at the edge of Coalgate on the Hororata side, approximately 1 km from the foot of the proposed dam. As mentioned the view from our house and backyard will be of the dam face instead of the partially wooded foothills and with a peak of snow capped mountains in the background. Not a fair exchange to my mind. Refer to Picture 1 on page 3. The hill on the left hand side of that picture is the starting point of the dam so the rolling hills effect will be, I believe, replaced with a gravel face similar to the Benmore Dam in Picture 2 below.



Picture 2: Looking across Benmore Dam from the South lookout point on top of the dam

15. As a family we holidayed on the shore of Lake Benmore in January 2008. Because of the CPW scheme we made sure we visited several of the dams in the Waitaki power system involving the southern Hydro lakes of which Benmore is one. I would like to share information that we discovered and do a comparison between Benmore Dam and the proposed dam at Coalgate (proposed size is 55 metres high and 2 kilometres wide). The first thing that struck me was the sheer size of the Benmore dam (110 metres high and 823 metres wide) and the amount of water behind it (Lake Benmore has a volume of water one and half times greater than the water in Wellington harbour.) I

was interested to note that the nearest village, Otematata (constructed for the workers who built the dam) is situated 8 kms away. Definitely better than a few metres.



Picture 3: Aerial view of Benmore Dam. Note that there is no village situated below the dam

16. There is a massive concrete spillway, which enables the safe lowering of water levels in the event of problems. The dam's spillway can cope with 3,400 cubic metres of water per second, about 10 times the mean river flow and is, of course closely monitored. There is a river system which can cope with this flow and this does not flow directly in line with Otematata. "The filling of Lake Benmore in 1964 was followed by a sharp increase in the number of earthquakes in the area. Twenty-nine shocks occurred in the six years after the lake was filled, compared with only four in the two and half years previously" (Meridian Energy, 'Introducing Benmore' pamphlet Sept 2005). Benmore Dam is part of Meridian's Power production via the southern hydro lakes and as such provides a national benefit to New Zealand and is what I call a 'Public Scheme'. Somehow that makes this dam more appealing as well as the fact that there isn't a village situated mere metres from the actual dam face as evidenced in pictures 3 and 5.



Picture 4: Spillway at Benmore Dam (note the yellow truck on the left which gives size context)



Picture 5: View from lookout with Lake Benmore in the foreground looking out over the dam showing that there is no village anywhere near the dam.

17. On traveling around the Twizel district the first thing that struck me was the barrenness of the area. There is very little housing or settlements and it is also a very barren landscape. Settlements were actually made to house the hydro scheme workers (like Twizel and Otematata) and placed well out of harm's way should failure of any sort occur. This is in direct contrast to Canterbury, which is already very populated with many houses, existing settlements, villages, and townships that will all be affected in some way by the CPW scheme. I was interested to find out that Lake Benmore itself only affected 2 landowners as compared to the Waianiwaniwa reservoir, which will affect 29. This is in direct contrast to CPW's scheme where many landowners' and their neighbours are directly affected. I believe that in total over 100 landowners will be directly affected by the dam, reservoir and headrace canal and approximately a further 570 landowners are affected by the network canals. I do not know the number of landowners affected by the canal systems of the hydro lakes however the barrenness of the land would suggest to me that there were not the number of landowners affected that there is with the CPW scheme. I believe that the land for the township of Twizel was obtained from one landowner.
18. I am very concerned about the possibility of dam failure. I realize this is a small risk but a risk it still is nonetheless. I already lie awake at night worrying about the fact that if the dam fails, my family and I will be part of the deceased as there will be very little chance of survival. I have lost many hours sleep because of this fact alone and I am tired! In fact if this goes ahead, we will have life jackets in the bedrooms and at the front and back door as part of our survival plan so that perhaps there will be a slim chance of survival should the dam fail. What a prospect...
19. We all remember the damage caused by Opuha Dam failing and there is no village situated within metres of the dam there. Not a pleasant thought. My 66-year-old mother and 93-year-old grandmother live in Christchurch and are both very distressed about their eldest daughter and granddaughter, son-in-

law, grandchildren and great grandchildren being so close to the 'damn dam'. My mother said to me recently that every time she hears or reads the word 'CPW' her stomach clenches and she feels sick at the thought of it and this has been going on for some years now for her. These are women who are not directly affected by this scheme from land, or living in the shadow of the dam but they are nevertheless affected. This is not to mention all the family members in my family and Roger's family. Every single person who is directly and indirectly affected by this scheme has family who are also affected by it because of being related. Finding out how this affects my mother and grandmother distresses me. They have even discussed ways of helping us financially so that we can sell up and move away - except that is not a viable option for 2 women living on a government pension.

20. I am very concerned at the thought of earthquakes occurring. As in Paragraph 16, the filling of Lake Benmore set off numerous earthquakes. While these were not large they still existed and were directly related to the filling of the lake. It is a well-known fact that Selwyn is earthquake country and we have been told we are overdue for 'the big one'. The thought of the dam as a catalyst for 'the big one' is frightening and, I believe, a very real possibility. I know that when there was a proposal of a landfill being situated in the area, Pat Morrison (chairman of CPW), who led the 'Dump the Dump' group, listed very vocally the fact that the area is earthquake prone and this was good enough reason to not have a dump. The fact he is now advocating a dam in this same area is interesting as the very reasons he used to 'dump the dump' still exist for the 'damn dam'. I personally have felt at least 2 earthquakes in the 16 years we have lived in Malvern... the big one is still out there and very real to me. Frighteningly so if I have to live directly under a dam holding back up to 290 million cubic metres of water.

21. The native mudfish living in the valley were another reason Pat Morrison gave for not having a dump in the area. I note that CPW have planned a substantial amount of money to relocate these same mudfish from the valley and 'create' a new natural habitat for them. It is interesting that there is no such plan to relocate the many human beings from the 'danger' zone. Perhaps human beings do not afford the same value as mudfish. I understand the environmental nature of saving the mudfish in their natural habitat however I also believe human beings also need to be valued if their lives and natural habitat are threatened as well. I very firmly believe my 'natural habitat' and many other human beings' natural habitat is being threatened by this scheme and as such this needs to be adequately addressed by CPW.

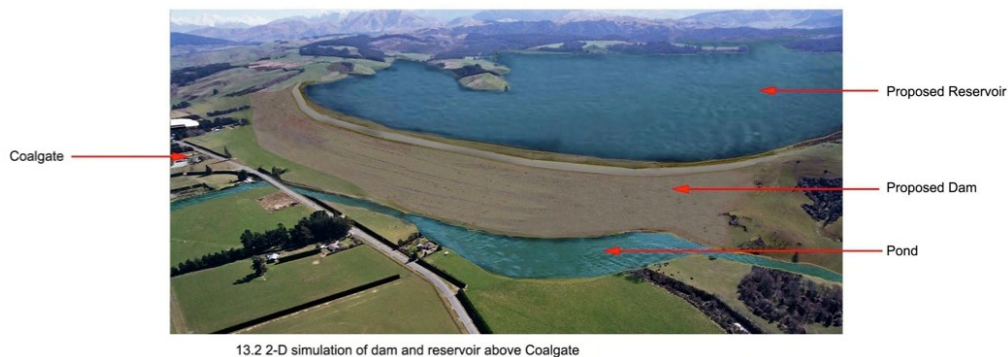
22. I am very concerned about the years of construction noise we will have to endure. Since moving out to the country, and indeed one of the very reasons for doing so, there are certain times of the year that I go outside in the evenings to specifically listen to the rural sounds. August - for the sound of the lambs and ewes calling to each other, many different months for the sounds of the birds heading to bed and giving their evening song, April/May for the sound of the stags roaring as they enter the rutting season. This is one of my favourite times of year listening to the stags roar - it is such a primitive

sound. All times for the snuffling of hedgehogs as they feed on bugs and the crunch of them eating chook pellets that the chooks haven't eaten before roosting for the night. And then there are the times I go and listen to the wonderful silence. You can hear the occasional car traveling up Homebush Road heading to Glentunnel or towards Darfield.

23. It distresses me to think that for **years** I am going to have to listen to heavy machinery digging and destroying my natural habitat. I will not be able to listen to the things I really enjoy listening to, as they will be drowned out by machinery. In fact in the case of the stags - the land the stags are on will be taken over by dam and water so that will be one small pleasure of mine that I will not get because they will not be in the close vicinity that they are currently in. Even during the day and at weekends when we are at home enjoying our natural habitat we listen for these sounds. We notice when cars travel down Homebush Road – you can hear them coming. And this lack of traffic and noise is another one of the reasons we moved here. CPW will destroy this for us and that distresses me. Noise stress is a known cause of fatigue and I am concerned about the fatigue directly related to noise that my family and I will suffer at the hands of CPW. This will not assist my children's growth and development nor will it help Roger and I as we go about our lives.
24. Dust will also be a factor in the construction process. Living in the country you expect a bit of dust caused by ploughing and winds lifting the topsoil. We live in nor'wester territory. We used to live on a gravel road and while there was only a small amount of traffic, there was still dust on every surface inside the house. This was a reason to move to Coalgate as we weren't on a gravel road and the dust levels noticeably reduced in the house. Again, this reason for moving to Coalgate will be seriously affected by the years of construction and I am concerned about the dust levels. We already have a child prone to hay fever, and the increased dust levels will not help this. Living in a construction zone is not something that is conducive to our natural habitat.
25. I also understand that the Waianiwaniwa reservoir will not always be full, and at times may even be empty during the summer months. Living in nor'wester territory I am very concerned about the effect of the dust on Coalgate and surrounds as the summer winds will whip through the dry reservoir and stir up the dust and send it flying around the local area. As residents of Coalgate this will directly affect us and I do not want to have to live with the dust caused by an empty reservoir. How do CPW plan to mitigate this effect?
26. Our house is situated approximately 1 kilometre from the proposed dam face. We are in the last row of houses in Coalgate that are furthest from the proposed dam. And that is still too close for comfort for us. Even if the dam was moved further up the valley and further away from Coalgate, as has been talked about, though it may be more out of sight it would not be out of mind and as such any proposal to move the dam further up the valley will not suffice. The same factors would still apply and still be abhorrent.

27. Our girls, Meg and Abi are 8 years old and are already very worried at the prospect of living under a dam. They looked at Benmore Dam and now have a more real picture of what our view will be and are frightened by it. I hate to see my children worrying about their lives and homes because of this scheme. They will often, out of the blue, comment about their fears of living in the shadow of the dam and what it would mean if it collapsed. Let me ask you—should 8-year-old children be worrying about this sort of thing???
28. As residents of Coalgate we frequently walk down around Coalgate and down to the Selwyn River, near the Coalgate Bridge with our golden retriever Biff. In summer we often swim in the Selwyn, picnic on the banks and wander down and up the river skimming stones, with Biff splashing, chasing stones and the girls ‘boogie boarding’ in the water. I understand that a ‘siphon’ is going to be built under the Selwyn River on the east side of the Coalgate Bridge to carry the headrace through to the base of the dam. (Section 3 of the CPW AAE 1 June 2006 document, paragraph 3.9.5 on pg 3 – 28 talks about the siphons.) As I have not seen photos of what this siphon actually looks like I am unsure as to what effect this will have on our summer wanderings and whether it is in fact safe for children to be near. I also wonder how this siphon will cope with the storm water that comes down the Selwyn after heavy rain. Not so long ago, around 2002 – 2003, I remember the water level being mere centimeters from the bottom of the bridge and the rumbling and vibration of the stones, branches and water were scarily impressive. The overflow from these floodwaters racing down the river actually went for quite a distance on either side of riverbanks. Will the siphon be able to withstand this sort of onslaught that definitely can happen?
29. I also understand that the race from the Rakaia River through to the base of the dam follows a certain contour of the land to allow for gravity flow. In Coalgate this contour follows right through the village and the headrace has therefore been re-routed to the east of Coalgate. I believe that because this is at a level lower than the contour that this part of the canal will be manually raised up to the contour to continue the natural gravity flow. Not only is this going to be an eyesore near Coalgate, it will also have a ‘stop bank’ effect should the dam fail to the west of this canal. The water will back-flow directly around Coalgate increasing the likelihood of death to the Coalgate residents. Being a mother, and also having had my youngest sister drown in the Avon River when she was 19 months old, I would like to know if this canal, so close to Coalgate, is going to be fenced so that children do not have access to the water. I would not like my mother to lose a granddaughter as well as one of her own daughters to drowning. Being in a rural village community means that as parents we have slightly less concern for our children walking or biking over to friends’ houses unaccompanied. There are lots of neighbours who keep an eye and ear out! However having large dangerous bodies of swift flowing water would mean that this would be not occur without an adult present as I would not like to have one or both of my girls drowning in such a waterway.

30. Meg and Abi attend Glentunnel School, which is about 2 kilometres away from our house. This is a fantastic small rural school, which is giving our children a great education and one that, I believe, cannot compare to any other school, especially an urban school. Roger and I have talked about selling up and moving however we would not wish to move our children from Glentunnel School. If we move away from this area our children will miss out on a unique school and education. I do not want to uproot my children from a school that is teaching and nurturing them in ways beyond a parent's dream for their children. There is no other school that has the unique 'flavour' of Glentunnel School and there is no other school that I want my children to go to for their primary school education.
31. The photo below was emailed to me in early May 2008 and needless to say I was horrified. This is the first and only simulation photo I have seen depicting ANY of the structures proposed for Coalgate. We have yet to see designs for the headrace canal through Coalgate, the siphon under the Selwyn River or all the other structures that will surely be needed for a project of this scale. What else has CPW got planned for our community that we are blissfully unaware of?



Picture 6: Photo of dam simulation that is part of CPW's submission

32. Upon seeing this simulation, four things went through my head in fairly quick succession...I wrote these down in an email to a friend and I have copied it here for you to read.
- “The thing that hit me first was how frightened I feel at the thought of all that water just there with no thought as to our safety.
- Secondly was how angry I feel at the fact that a private company can have so much power over other peoples' private lives.
- Thirdly was the fact of what an awful, hideous view I would have from our lovely wee house which at present has a great view of the hills with the mountains behind... preferable to a bloody awful dam face.
- And fourthly is the fact that I feel very emotional about it all and I am already losing sleep at the thought of it going ahead... and then it is the thought of what the hell happens to me and my family – our lifestyle and things we hold dear about Coalgate will be worthless if this monstrosity goes ahead!!!!”

33. These things are still flying around my head when I see this picture. A friend of mine, Brigita, who commented that she and her husband Murray go driving around the local specified 'scenic routes' as listed by Transit NZ and this dam is on the Inland Scenic Route 77. She is concerned that this dam is not scenic and will spoil this part of the scenic route. They moved down to Canterbury from Auckland so that they could enjoy the scenic uniqueness of Canterbury and surrounds and also the unique braided river systems. She commented to me that her knowledge of CPW was that a small valley and small dam would be part of the scheme and that the 'canals' would be similar to the water race system that is currently criss crossing Canterbury. She is horrified at the picture above and the fact that there has been so little information about it. They live in Christchurch and have only gone on the information released by the local newspapers, which she said at best is very poor!
34. This simulation photo still doesn't show spillways, pump houses and any other associated structures that will be part of the dam so I am still unsure as to whether this is the actual look of the dam. As there is no spillway shown on this picture I am left wondering if there is a spillway and should the dam begin to fail the questions I want answered are: - How do CPW plan to empty the dam to bring it back to a 'safe' level? How do CPW intend to notify each and every one of the residents of Coalgate should a failure or weakness occur that will place our lives at severe risk of termination? How long will it take to lower water levels in the event of a failure? If this process takes a number of days to do – what do we as a family do to ensure we are safe without affecting our normal daily routines of work and school? Where, exactly, do we go to keep safe?
35. I find it inconceivable that a private company can tout that this scheme is for the public good. Tell me how this will directly benefit my family and me? Tell me how the shareholders of the scheme are going to directly benefit me? A comparison here could be that when Fonterra paid out the major bonus to the dairy farmers the price of milk, butter, cheese and all things dairy increased to a point where cheese is a luxury item in our household. Tell me how I will benefit from this scheme in a way that the benefits are of value to me.. I would also like to know how so many landowners can have their land taken off them for the public good when they are part of the very public who are supposed to benefit. It seems very backward to 'inconvenience' many to benefit few.
36. I am also concerned about my property value. I agree that this is hard to measure and confirm, however I fear that Roger and I will be left with a property that will not sell because of being in the shadow of the dam. This is of concern to me as our property is our only asset and if we are unable to sell it or get a true market value for it because of the dam then we have 'lost on the deal'. I also understand that because our land is not designated we are therefore not 'directly affected' and as such are not entitled to any compensation even though we will have to live with huge upheavals during the construction process and then all the issues with living in the very shadow of a dam.

37. I am angry to read comments in local newspapers by Pat Morrison and Nigel Barnett (SDC councillor) who have commented that there is a lot of emotion attached to the whole CPW scheme, particularly by those who oppose it. I would like to ask if we are supposed to be unemotional about something of this magnitude that will directly affect all the things we hold dear. How can we be unemotional about this situation? Our natural habitat is being severely threatened and we are supposed to be unemotional. Is that a reasonable expectation? Peoples' livelihoods, hopes, dreams, lifestyle choices, time and money investments, indeed for some this covers many generations, are being destroyed and we are supposed to be unemotional. This narrow-minded attitude makes me very angry and even more emotional!
38. I am concerned about the likely change of climate here in Coalgate with such a large body of water situated a bare kilometre away. I believe this amount of water will affect the climate we currently enjoy and that concerns me. Coalgate has lovely weather much of the time and I do not want to see this changed by this scheme.
39. I am concerned about the smell of rotting vegetation. I understand that CPW are not planning to completely clear the valley prior to filling it with water and that the valley will not always be full of water. The vegetation that will be in the valley will go through the normal rotting process and Coalgate will have to deal with the rotting vegetation smell. Having grown up in Wainoni, Christchurch, with my mother and grandmother still living in Wainoni, and having the smells from the Bromley sewerage treatment station a regular occurrence, I am not happy at the thought of smells once again ruling our lives. You can't get away from awful smells like this; going indoors does not eliminate the smells. One of the reasons for moving out to the country was to get away from the Bromley smells and the 'city' smells as well. I appreciate going out of my house and smelling fresh clean air and I do not want to lose this. How does CPW plan to mitigate this?
40. Statements from CPW early on in the process that said that Coalgate is of low natural character with the inference that it does not matter that there is a dam situated mere metres from the village really offend me. Roger and I chose to live here because of the very character and qualities that Coalgate offers and they are of huge significance and value to us. See paragraph 8 for the qualities that drew us to Coalgate.
41. I realise that this hearing is not about dairying however I am concerned that there is a possibility that a large chunk of Canterbury could be converted to dairy if CPW scheme goes ahead. I am also aware that 3 private dairy farms/corporations have loaned several millions to CPW, these being Dairy Holdings Ltd, Clovernook Farms Ltd and Wilsden Farm Ltd, and to me this is very suspicious of the scheme being there to benefit dairy farms.
42. As I understand it, from reading the MHPS submission written by Mr. Michael Parker, particularly paragraphs 28 – 32 on pages 11 - 12 (attached to my submission as Appendix 1), the arrangement between these corporate

dairy companies and CPW, will allow the corporates the use of the resource consents to take water from the Rakaia River for their own commercial purposes, until CPW has its own scheme up and running. I thought this was supposed to be a community scheme and that CPW Trust would be the caretakers and guardians of the environment. (Yeah right!) Corporate structures by their very nature have profit for shareholders as the most important and overriding objective. If Dairy Holdings does get access to the water granted through consents to CPW, who will be responsible for ensuring that Dairy Holdings upholds all of the social, environmental, recreational and sustainable management responsibilities that the CPW Trust will supposedly adhere to?

43. I am also concerned that, as in paragraph 29 of Mr Parker's submission, that the loan agreement doesn't only include land currently owned and operated by Dairy Holdings but also any future land they may hold. This is of concern as what is to stop this corporate business from obtaining any land they can buy in Canterbury to convert to their core business of dairy farming. A case in point is the owner of a sheep farm that neighbours onto my work in Te Pirita was, I believe, offered \$6 million by Synlait to purchase his farm and in this climate, it would be very difficult for a sheep farmer to turn down easy money like that in a drought prone area, as was the case for this particular farmer. This is now being converted into a large dairy farm as we speak. As I understand this, Dairy Holdings could feasibly convert much of Canterbury to dairy while having control of the resource consents without actually having to apply for them themselves.
44. I really wonder why my family and I have been put through all the stress and worry about this scheme if in the end the consents get passed on to Dairy Holdings. I understand Dairy Holdings already has its own irrigation scheme up and running on the Rakaia and would not need to build a dam and reservoir to service its own business. What a waste of time, energy and money and what an injustice that our community has had to fight to protect our way of life.
45. Therefore I wish to take time and write my thoughts and concerns about Canterbury being converted to dairying. Having lived in the Waikato I have lived in typical dairy country. Waikato has a high rainfall and warmer weather both of which promote grass growth. Waikato is a very green district and is conducive to dairy farming. In my years there I never saw dry brown fields like we get here in Canterbury. There is also a good depth of topsoil, which assists in water retention and grass growth. Unlike the Waikato, Canterbury is basically dry riverbed with very little topsoil.
46. We also have the greatest range of weather temperatures from cold to hot. The nor'westers are our most common wind and is also the strongest we have. We commonly have 'drought' conditions, which means less rainfall. I have heard a friend, who worked on a large corporate dairy farm in Te Pirita; comment that the manager was concerned that the grass wasn't beginning to grow in August when Canterbury can still have frosts in November.

47. I have witnessed several large dairy conversions in the surrounding district (I work in Te Pirita) and the first thing that happens is all existing shelterbelts and trees are removed. This allows what little topsoil present to be lifted up by the strong winds that the area is prone to and spread it over the neighbouring properties. There is also no shelter for the animals because the shelterbelts have been removed. The fences are all removed and then the large pivot irrigators go in. Every day I pass 2 dairy/cattle farms (and also 1 in the developing stages) and in spring, summer and autumn each one of them regularly uses every irrigator they have on the farms, especially in hot, blustery nor'west days and frequently water right across the roads and onto the other side. I have lost count of the number of times my car has been washed by this wasted water. I know that in windy conditions up to 40 or 50% of water evaporates and is lost and this is the very water that CPW wants to have sitting behind a massive structure looming over my township and property. What guarantees are there that the water will not be wasted in the manner that it is wasted now on such a regular basis? Is water-hungry, intensive dairy farming a sustainable use of our diminishing water resource?
48. Travelling to work every week morning at 8.45am I see the large herds of cows being moved onto the tiny strips of feed allocated to them for the day, and as I travel home again at 2.45pm I see the cows standing in bare mud as they have completely emptied the strip of every bit of green vegetation. These already fragile paddocks with little topsoil, as evidenced by the many stones showing through, are being continually degraded. How is this sustainable land use? Because a lot of the land I pass each day is converted to pasture for cattle from pine plantation there seems to be very little decent drainage and in wet weather there is significant ponding and evidence of much mud.
49. There is much documented information on water quality and there is no secret to the fact that there are increased nitrates and an unprecedented use of a variety of chemicals, and bacteria in water where there is dairying. For CPW to promote the conversion of even more of Canterbury to dairying this will have an even greater effect on the water quality. Christchurch has to have the most pristine water in New Zealand because it is from the aquifers underground in Canterbury. To risk spoiling this water quality and the quality of the waterways and rivers of Canterbury is very wrong.
50. I am concerned about our braided river systems and how they will survive the huge amount of water being taken out of the rivers. These rivers need to be protected so that their unique qualities are kept for future generations to enjoy. Many people enjoy these braided rivers and they should continue to be able to enjoy these rivers. The natural braided river habitat of many creatures depends on these systems being kept as they are and therefore environmentally this scheme will have a negative effect on these rivers and waterways.

CONCLUSION

51. This whole process has been flawed right from the start. There has been no consultation with my family and I even though living in Coalgate will

definitely affect us. I understand that under the RMA, CPW aren't legally required to consult but surely they have to provide us with information. If information is withheld how can people understand the effects? How will they know if they have to make a submission? I have talked to many different people in Coalgate and many are still totally unaware of the realities of this scheme. There is also so much information to cope with that it is too daunting a task to even begin to look at. I am also aware that many people are genuinely overwhelmed by this whole situation and can't cope with it so do their best to avoid it. We all have busy lives and this submission alone has taken me somewhere in the vicinity of 15 hours minimum to prepare and as a working mother my family are the ones who miss out. Many people, of whom my husband is one, are not comfortable with public speaking and unable to cope with the stress of standing up in a formal setting and being able to speak coherently. As the Glentunnel School Board of Trustees Chairperson, I am used to public speaking and even so have very much struggled with the thought of preparing this and getting up and speaking to it.

52. I am sure more people would have made submission if they saw exactly what is proposed as the scale of it would be so much more apparent. I saw recently in the Press an article about the revamped AMI Stadium in Christchurch, which has a photo of a scale model of the Eden Park 2011 Rugby World Cup revamp as part of the article. If CPW had taken the time and effort to make a scale model of this scheme then all people would have actually been able to see it in reality and then make a decision about whether they should make a submission. Did CPW not think this was necessary or did they realise that if people actually saw the reality of the scheme there would be no hope of it going ahead?
53. In fact, I feel our concerns have been very much belittled by CPW as 'emotional', as not important because of the scheme being for the greater good, as those affected not worth being given information and allowing discussion, as being a 'public' scheme but not being voluntarily given 'public' information and generally being of little or no significant value. There are many unanswered questions and a lack of information to adequately address the huge areas of concern and I feel the process, so far, has not adequately addressed these either. I am sceptical that CPW can even begin to address these very real concerns.
54. This whole CPW scheme gives me nightmares and is of huge concern to my family and I. We are extremely worried about the many negative factors of this scheme, as we can't actually see any benefits of the scheme. I am sick of having this constant worry hanging over our heads and clouding our future and limiting our options. I am sick of lying awake at night thinking through what it will be like living in the shadow of a 55 metre dam, how will we cope with the whole process, should we move now and uproot the family and leave all that we hold dear and lose the reasons we moved to Coalgate for, what happens if the dam fails and we are all killed, or worse are conscious through the 'being swept away' process, or worse again, which child do I try and save first, what happens if there is an earthquake, or many of them because of the

filling of the lake, will we be insured for damage caused by anything related to the dam, how do we cope with the whole thing???? This whole scheme has had a huge impact on our lives and it has not been pleasant. We are in a 'lose / lose ' situation and that is devastating.

55. While we experienced the lack of communication and consultation by the SDC relating to the Canterbury Gliding Club, we certainly never, for one minute, thought the SDC would not inform or consult with those ratepayers directly and indirectly affected by this scheme. This is a massive scheme that has very wide ranging negative affects and I say 'Shame on you SDC, CPW, Christchurch City Council and ECAN', for not being proactive towards the many people who are adversely affected by this abhorrent scheme.
56. There has been a term bandied around that those opposed to the CPW scheme are NIMBY's (NOT IN MY BACK YARD) I would like to think of us as LULU's (LOCALLY UNACCEPTABLE LAND USE) and this scheme is an unacceptable land use.
57. I realise that as commissioners you have to rule based on the RMA 1991 not based on emotion or the 'rights and wrongs' of those of us directly and indirectly affected by this scheme and that is the basis of your decision making process. I also realise that CPW has basically done what the law required, not necessarily what is democratic, moral and ethical. This very law is something that renders ordinary people, like us, almost helpless to stop this very sort of thing we are experiencing now. However under the RMA, Part 3, section 17, Adverse Effects, Duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects; CPW has a responsibility to prove that they will deal effectively with all adverse effects. I would like you to consider all the adverse affects of this scheme and what CPW has done, firstly, to avoid, then to remedy and finally to mitigate the countless adverse effects of this scheme. Has CPW actually upheld this part of the law? Have they avoided the effects, or are they merely justifying them? Have they given enough information to prove, beyond doubt, that they will indeed uphold the social, environmental, recreational and sustainable management responsibilities under the RMA and ensure that this scheme is indeed the sustainable, 'good for all' scheme they are touting?
58. There are so many negative effects on a large number of people and very few positive effects on very few people, and irreversible adverse affects on our environment, so I ask that all resource consents be declined and that the Notice of Requirement be withdrawn.

KAY OXLEY
26 July 2008