

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 the
Ashburton Community
Water Trust (ACWT)

Statement of Evidence of Paul McOscar

**PRESENTATION IN SUPPORT OF INITIAL SUBMISSION BY
JULES SNOYINK, HOMEBUSH ROAD, GLENTUNNEL**

1. Prepared by Paul McOscar, Secretary Coalgate/Glentunnel Reserve Management Committee.
2. This document is to express the utmost concern of the above Reserve Management Committee relating to the impact that the Scheme's headrace will have on the Coalgate Reserve, and particularly its eastern border. The above Reserve Management Committee is a voluntary group of elected local residents who manage the Reserve by delegated authority on behalf of the Selwyn District Council.
3. Our assumption from studying scheme details is that it appears that the headrace will intrude either physically through CPW's acquiring status or designate a substantial part of the Reserve to meet their canal supply requirements.
4. While CPW's "scheme project" document contains some sound engineering principles the lasting impression is that the document contains a litany of probabilities, possibilities and proposed adjustments to mitigate concerns and or to fend off difficulties. The report and many of its proposed outcomes sound so fluid that they are like the water it wishes to store.
5. The Management Committee as required by the Reserves Act developed a Reserves Management Plan for the Reserve

commencing this task in 2000. The Committee was required to carry out a formal and designated process of communication and consultation with local residents and organisations that have a stake in the Reserve. The Management Plan was signed off by the Council and acknowledged by the Department of Conservation in late 2004 when community sign off was achieved.

6. In July 1890 Messrs Wilson, Baker, Manson, Beattie and McMellon who in the Coalgate Hotel, had the foresight to have the Coalgate Reserve, a 11.6068 ha site within the Coalgate town plan, set aside in perpetuity for the residents of Coalgate. The current Committee wishes to protect that foresight implemented 118 years ago and ensure that an untouched reserve will be available to the community in a further 118 years.
7. This committee wishes to strongly express its concern that CPW's proposal now determines that they have a greater right to a designated and Gazetted public reserve that was set aside for the enjoyment and recreation of the community.
8. The CPW Scheme proposal to run its headrace and buffer zone alongside the eastern boundary of Coalgate Reserve also presents a public safety and danger aspect. Being a public reserve that attracts children in pursuit of adventure and play, the water race will be a magnet like any of the local rivers. This then presents an obvious danger to young lives because of its proximity not only to the townships young but more importantly the Reserve's users.
9. In developing the Management Plan the Committee after much consultation with the community is in the process of developing a sports oval encompassing refurbishment of hard court area and grass sports activities. As well a large part of the Reserve has been afforested with those species planted, having grown to around 3m in height. A one km walking track circumnavigates this area and is likely to be impeded by the proposed canal.
10. The Reserve Management Committee is also concerned about the environmental impact that CPW's project will have through creating man-made structures such as canals, embankments and of course the earth dam which will be easily viewed from the Reserve.

11. In summary the Committee has at no time had any communication from CPW regarding its proposal or has it been contacted, to be advised that there is likely to be a claim on part of, or that the Reserve will be affected by the scheme's requirements.
12. This Committee feels somewhat aggrieved that it had to follow a clear process as outlined in the Reserves Act and gain total community sign-off before the Coalgate Reserve Management Plan was adopted. It appears CPW has followed a reverse process and developed its "plan" and now wishes to implement that plan through the use of the statutory powers that it has gained.
13. The Coalgate/Glentunnel Reserve Management Committee wishes to enter its strongest objection to CPW's assumption that it can take or claim Gazetted reserve land or levy restrictions on the use on the Coalgate Reserve for CPW purposes and seeks the Hearing Panel to reject any approval to allow a consent for this to occur.

Paul McOscar
Secretary, Coalgate/Glentunnel Reserve Management Committee
15 July 2008.