

To:
Consents Administration Section
Environment Canterbury.
PO Box 345
Christchurch

In the matter of the Resource Management Act 1991

And

In the matter of applications for resource consent by the Central Plains Water Trust and a notice of requirement for the designation of land by Central Plains Water Limited associated with the construction and operation of the Central Plains Water Scheme.

Submitters name: Paul Vernel
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I am opposed to the Central Plains Application in their current form for the following reasons.

I have been a jet boater for 24 years and I am the Owner and Director of a commercial adventure jet boating operation situated on the lower Waimakariri River within the Waimakariri Regional Park. We operate 3 vessels of varying sizes running several trips a day ranging from a shorter 30 minute trip to a 75 minute trip that takes us as far as the Willows which is about halfway to the Gorge Bridge. Our area of operation could be directly affected by the increased abstraction of water from the upper Waimakariri.

I am also on the local Branch Committee of Jet boating NZ in charge of new boaters and membership. This job entails the training of newer boaters in the art of safe and enjoyable jet boating.

Since 2000 I have been increasingly concerned about the rapid decline in the amount of water that makes its way to the sea. Centre Pivot Water Irrigation Schemes on the northern side of the river have increased from approximately 5 to about 80 and this combined with the Browns Rock intake which feeds a lot of the North Canterbury irrigation schemes, and ground water abstraction via wells can often push the Waimakariri into its minimum flow requirements. I believe the CPW scheme will simply push the river to the minimum flow more quickly and for longer periods.

As the minimum flow is currently set at 41 cumecs it often makes parts of the Lower Waimakariri very shallow and braided. As the Lower Waimakariri often stretches to about 1 km in width across the river bed 41 cumecs does not make for concentrated flows. Smith Stream and the Otukaikino River 3 kilometres above the measure contribute approximately 5 cumecs to this 41 cumecs so only a short distance above these two tributories the river flow is a mere 36 cumecs. Therefore the cumec rating at the old highway bridge is artificially inflated by about 5 cumecs continuously. I propose that a raising of the minimum flow would meet the needs of most Jet Boaters, Kayakers and Fisherman. It would give greater options for jet boaters and kayakers to pass safely and fish to pool.

I am also opposed to the proposed flushing canal unless it is used at a time of high flow when turbidity is not an issue and the effects can be minimised. Otherwise there will be an increase of silting of the rivers in the mid reaches that could cause dust storms lower down as has happened in other areas. The canal and lake intakes above the Waimakariri River Gorge Bridge must not impede the safe passage of powered and non powered craft as these areas have a special recreational value. I believe the design of these structures must be evaluated prior to consent approval.

In closing I am not totally opposed to any water redirection scheme as long as it leaves the Waimakariri River at a viable level for all recreational users. In the original concept of harvesting at high flow only, I was all in favour. But to have the scheme change to a mid- flow extraction, I believe was misleading to the public and only set up to confuse the people of Canterbury.

Thank you for your time.

Paul Vernel
Jet Stream Tours NZ Ltd
Jet Thrills ChCh