

**IN THE MATTER**

of the Resource Management Act 1991

**AND**

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of applications and notice of requirement by  
the Central Plains Water Trust and the  
Ashburton Community Trust

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Submission from SL and LJ Redmond

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1. Our names are Stuart Lindsay and Laura Jayne Redmond and we are landowners on Redmonds Road and Old West Coast Road, Kimberley. Stuart's family have owned the land here since 1919. In 2000 we took over farming on our own account. Laura has a B.Sc (Environmental Science) from Lincoln, conferred in 1994 followed by nearly two years work at Ecan as a consent investigating officer. We currently lease 250 acres of land to Guy and Jenny Bassett, Tramway Road, Sheffield.

2. The Redmond family were farming here when the Council took land for the Kimberley water race, splitting 7 acres of land off from the remaining 88 acre block. They were also here when the Council had difficulty with washouts with the reopened Kimberley water race in the 1960s, alongside the terrace at the back of the Bull's property, our near neighbours. A tunnel looping back under Bull's paddocks away from the terrace edge was the solution in that instance. What was once an open canal race along the edge of the river terrace is now piped to stop the seepage and washouts.
3. We are minimum shareholders in CPW, as we felt that by purchasing shares we would be kept more informed than the general public. That however, has not been the case.
4. After the first maps came out, we saw that the main headrace canal was going to cross over our land at approximately the same location as the current Kimberley stockwater race.
5. We asked for a meeting with Mr Walter Lewthwaite, engineer for CPW, along with our neighbours, Messrs Norm and Phil Thomas, Messrs Godfrey and Chris Judd, and Mr Richard Bull. Mr Lewthwaite did not show up, and after an hour we rang him, and he was held up over on Deans Road. He advised us that a further meeting would be scheduled. We never heard from him.

6. After some time, a second set of maps came out, and we found out that the main canal race had now moved to the west, so that it crossed over even more land than the original, and we would now be left with two canals crossing our land, the CPW canal and the Kimberley stockwater canal.
  
7. We note that in the URS Memorandum dated 11 September 2006 regarding Designation Question Nos 14 and 15: Effects on stockwater race and water supply networks, that Mr Walter Lewthwaite states that it is intended that the new scheme races will operate separately and independently from the existing stockwater race system. This obviously means that the Kimberley stockwater race across the back of Bull's farm (along the terrace edge) and along the side boundary of our property and across some of our land will still be in independent operation, alongside of a second, much larger headrace canal. One can only wonder just how much room there is alongside the terrace edge. There is neither any provision within maps etc for the crossing over/under of the Kimberley stockwater canal, as at one point on a map the main headrace canal is to the north of the stockwater canal, and then through our property it is to the south. I do note that there is a proposal to pipe the main headrace canal underneath the Old West Coast road crossing. It would be prudent to continue to pipe underneath the Kimberley race, and since then the race is on our property, it should present no difficulties to continue the piping across to Bleakhouse Road.

8. We object to the current location of the canal, as it will leave us with two canals on our land. The land parcel is 88 acres, which is smaller than 100 acres, so we cannot subdivide it and sell it, nor could we effectively farm it. In addition it would require extensive re-fencing, as the current 4 squarish paddocks would be separated into long, skinny lengths. In total, CPW would be likely to take at least 15 acres out of the remaining 88 acres, which equates to a loss of 17% of our land area.
  
9. We also have grave concerns about the seepage from the main headrace canal along the banks of the Waimakariri River adjacent to the existent Kimberley stockwater race. The Kimberley stockwater race has been operating for the past 48 years, and you can drive down the Bleakhouse cutting and observe seepage from the race through the shingle layers at this point. In the past they attempted to line the race with clay and silts etc. to stop seepage. They succeeded only in slowing it down. In addition to this, our corner paddock adjacent to the Kimberley stockwater race experiences sinkholes in times of high water flow during the summer. We have considerable concern over the viability of any water canal on the edge of such an unstable cliff face as the one that runs along the south side of the Waimakariri River. We feel that any canal and associated water seepage will only add to the likelihood of extensive erosion of the terrace from within, and the subsequent resulting loss of land up on top of the terrace. This would have considerable environmental repercussions within the riverbed of the Waimakariri River, not to mention economic repercussions to the landowners above.

10. We also note that there are plans for feeder canals alongside our property along the length of the Old West Coast Road. Since CPW intend the Kimberley stockwater canal to be still effective, we would have one canal along Old West Coast Road to the west of Redmonds Road, and two to the east of Redmonds Road. This would effectively remove all of our northerly shelter trees. In addition, one canal would then end up very close to another shed, three 40 foot containers, our pig huts, chicken run, and front garden that our children play in, not to mention our family abode. We believe that a feeder race this close to our house would be a danger to our children, their friends, and any future grandchildren.

11. We also have a concern if the consents are granted regarding construction. A large amount of the construction would be close to our house and we are concerned about levels of dust created especially given that one of our daughters suffers from asthma, and has been hospitalised twice in the past due to this condition.

12. We believe that it would be prudent for CPW to consider taking the main headrace canal up out of the river in the direction of Pinegrove Road, along Pinegrove Road, Tramway Road, and through to Clintons Road, through Mr Pat Morrison's land, and joining into the current location of the headrace canal in this area.

Despite repeated questioning of CPW, we have not yet had any feedback on the manner in which we would be compensated for loss of land. Neither have they visited our property or consulted with us in any manner. The whole approach has been heavy handed with no thought at all of the small farmer, and I might add, with no common manners nor decency. We do not believe that there has been enough consideration of the effects to ordinary landowners along the length of all the races, and believe that not enough consultation has occurred with anyone. We also have doubts about the scheme being of great benefit to the wider public, and believe that the main beneficiaries are those whom are not located amongst the larger canal works. The few of us on high quality, heavy soils (Templeton silt loams) do not require irrigation, but large areas of our land are required to feed water to those on lighter soils who will indeed benefit from irrigation.