

In the matter of the Resource Management Act 1991

And

In the matter of Resource Consent Application and Notices of requirement for the Central Plains Water Scheme.

Statement of Evidence of: Warner James Archdall RAYMOND

Introduction:

- 1) My name is Warner James Archdall Raymond.
I am the Managing Director and a shareholder of Waimak Alpine Jet Ltd.
(WAI)
- 2) In summary, my evidence address:
 - a. Effect of CPW's proposed scheme on WAI.
 - b. Please note that this statement should be considered in conjunction with that of Trevor and Heather Taeye from whose property WAI operates and whose statement of evidence I am familiar with.
Many of their concerns and all of their unanswered questions and requested conditions relate directly to WAI.

Background:

- 3) Waimak Alpine Jet Ltd owns and operates a successful tourism business offering jet boating tours on the Waimakariri River from Riverside at Toby Hill. The jet boating business was initially established in 1989 at the Waimakariri Gorge Bridge, transferred to the Taeye property in 1992, and acquired by the present owners in 2004 that operate WAI from both sites. WAI is owner-operated, but also employs two full time employees and two part time employees. Three 22-

seater jet boats are used for the business, which is operated 365 days a year. WAJ is 'Qualmark' accredited and has been a member of Christchurch and Canterbury Tourism since 1999 (see attachment "A").

WAJ is based in Springfield, and is currently operated out of WAJ's new Tourist Centre at 51-53 West Coast Road (SH73) expanding the operation and establishing a centralized base for its tourism business in Springfield, which comprises a booking office, boatshed and workshop.

- 4) WAJ has therefore invested a considerable amount of capital expenditure and personal time into making this a successful and growing tourism business in the Canterbury region. The Central Plains scheme has the potential to severely disrupt, if not destroy, the business. WAJ is also concerned about the wider effects of the scheme on the surrounding community and environment.
- 5) WAJ is therefore opposed to the Upper Waimak Intake, both in terms of direct effects on the business and wider effects on the environment.

Effects of CPW's proposed scheme on WAJ.

- a) WAJ launching site on the Taeye's family property is the only scenic site close to the Gorge that large Tour Coaches can access.
- b) Launching site during construction and operation of CPW's scheme:
CPW has proposed to close WAJ down during construction for 4-12 months. This will destroy the business as all our current and future

clients will be forced to seek other operators during this period.

Our business is based on long term relationships which will not survive such a disruption.

c) Launch site maintenance:

WAJ cannot envisage how access can be maintained when extensive reconstruction of the intake canal is required. CPW have not provided any detail of how this 'partnership' could work.

d) Proposed/possible speed restrictions and safety issues at the launch site/proposed intake area will create safety issues for entering into the open water due to excess wash from WAJ and private jet boats. The restrictions will also lessen the jet boat experience particularly in returning to the launch site.

e) Potential effects of all water users being directed through the same man made braid on the river:

1/ This will raise serious safety issues.

2/ Will concentrate other river users close to our launch site which they are currently able to keep clear of.

This will seriously affect WAJ's ability to operate safely and offer the same quality of service that our clients currently enjoy.

Consultation:

- 1) WAJ has met with CPW personal on several occasions, (Messer's Morrison, Tippler, Lewthwaite, Crombie) however they were unable to provide any meaningful details of their scheme to allay our concerns, apart from attached letter (B)

Conclusion:

WAJ cannot envisage a future operating at our current standard at Riverside if the diversion channel is constructed as 'proposed' by CPW. "Riverside" is a unique scenic site that enables WAJ to handle large numbers of clients efficiently and safely.

Signed:



Warner James Archdall Raymond

Dated: ..8th August 2008.....