

To The Commissioners;

Having tried to read and understand the proposed consent conditions for Central Plains Water Trust and I would like to submit the following under prejudice;

Back ground;

I am and have been against the CPW scheme and have submitted my concerns to you in 2008. I totally support the submission of the Malvern Hills protection society, of which I am a member, re the revised scheme with its proposed conditions but have my own specific issues. Please be advised that I am still uncertain of the exact location of the headrace canal and would like you not to grant consent till the exact location is determined . I am only aware of the designated route near my property in which band somewhere the canal will be placed. Originally the head race canal and a distribution canal were planned to run through my property. This was changed(after submitting objection) to adjacent to the homestead . I still have not been advised of the fact if the original notice of requirement has been lifted of my property.

I will be meeting with Mr Walter Lewthwaite for the first time ever on site next Monday (hopefully) which is unfortunately after this submission is due.

At present I am surrounded by nine 300 meter pivot irrigators installed last year. The only major tree vegetation left is the Oaks Forrest originally planted to protect my Homestead (the Oaks Historic Homestead) from the weather. All other trees have been removed to make way for the irrigators. The landscape at present is heart breaking as a result of installed and planned irrigation. In my original submission to you I have included the photos of the devastation around me... through this same landscape the proposed headrace canal is planned. Instead of the canal going mid through shareholders paddocks it is planned right adjacent to The Oaks forest... and The Oaks Historic Homestead, meaning that a large part of the forest will have to be removed to make way for the canal, destroying the last part of greenery . In this environment I am trying to run my boutique accommodation and private restaurant business featuring a self supporting organic vegetable and fruit garden. This is my niche market. My business has been nominated over the last four years for the Selwyn Best Business Award. I do not own the Oaks Forrest which is not because of a lack of trying..the Oaks Historic Homestead will be directly affected by the construction of the head race canal and the subsequent usage of the canal. With this picture in mind I would like to express the additional key issues for my property if the headrace canal and the scheme go ahead;

- I am extremely concerned about the Oak Forrest . A substantial part of the forest will have to be cut to make way for the head canal as it is planned now. The canal is located right next to the forest. Also it is anticipated that there will be an seepage of upto 20% of water out of the canal. The remaining Oak trees will not stand wet roots. I am extremely concerned that this land mark will totally disappear as a direct result of the construction and usage of the canal. This land mark originally belonged to The homestead and deserves to be protected. Over the years I have been able, with assistance of the Selwyn District Council and the Darfield Community Board, to persuade the present owner not to cut the trees and avoid a public out cry. Now I have to fight CPW again..To emphasis the landmark status of the trees if have copied following poem supplied by Mrs Averil Bull found in the possession of her late father in law;

When the Oak comes out before the Ashe

You get a season of rain & Splash

When the Ashe comes out before the Oak

You get a season of fire & smoke

Max Bull had an Ashe tree in his garden just towards Sheffield from your place & he always relied on his Ashe tree & your Oak trees to predict the summer ahead. In his farming days there was not a lot of technology but as far as I remember this theory was fairly full proof.

- re the construction of the canal;

- I am extremely concerned of the impact(noise and vibration) on The Homestead when the blasting will start as it will only be a couple of hundreds of meters away.

- I am extremely concerned of the impact on the foundations of the Homestead.

-I am extremely concerned about the placements of mounds of temporarily deposited clay soil and as a result I am concerned about dust pollution over my property and organic gardens

-I am extremely concerned about the noise pollution created by the construction of the head canal. My business relies solely on providing a good nights rest and relaxing indoor/outdoor dining in the country side. How am I going to provide this when works will take place 24hrs a day? Which measurements will be taken to allow me to continue my business as normal?

- I am extremely concerned about the timing of the construction of the canal. The months of October till April are high season, July to September mid season and I financially rely heavily on these months. What assurances can be given to allow me to continue to carry out my business as usual over these months?

-As the location of the canal is so close to The Homestead I am extremely concerned of the traffic noise pollution that might occur. I envisage traffic lights to direct traffic whilst work is undertaken to built the canal and direct the canal under state highway 73. This will bank up the traffic in front of the homestead....not to mention the work to be carried out on Clintons road. Trucks will be coming and going 30 meters from our back door....The dust and noise pollution of trucks travelling on the dry and shingle of Clintons road will have an extreme effect on guest enjoyment and my organic vegetable and fruit garden.

-I am confused and concerned about the "Contaminants discharge to air" during the construction of the headrace canal. What will these be? Will this have affect over my property, our guests and organic edible gardens as we are located adjacent to the building site?

- re Operation of canal;

-At low river flow what will be the consequences of the level of water flow in the head race canal. I am concerned that the canal could stand empty with all associated stagnant water issues. This could potentially affect my business e.g. smell, mosquitoes, sand flies

- At the other end, is there a possibility of a surge of water in case of high water levels in the river and associated flooding?
- Although I do not understand exactly the way the silt will be flushed out of the canal , I am concerned about the noise issue re flushing a large head race canal.
- As a result I am extremely concerned about an emergency e.g. what to do if the banks burst or an earth quake damages the canal. How are the direct affected notified? Is there a public notification plan? Who do I as a potentially direct affected hold responsible for potential damage to The Oaks Historic Homestead and its associated business? An earth quake is an act of god but a wall of water out of a man made canal is not...
- I am extremely concerned about the anticipated water seepage upto 20% out of the headrace canal .This might have a major impact on the oaks trees adjacent to the canal and probably the oak trees on my property.
- I am extremely concerned about the impact on the already tarnished landscape around me. Will there be protective fences erected along both sides of the head race? Will I not only be surrounded by metal irrigators but also a large wall of metal fencing? This landscape will not entice guests to stay at my property.

Conclusion;

The Oaks Historic Homestead is not a major land owner. No canal will go through its land. No compensation for its business, services and contribution has been contemplated .BUT it is, together with "The Oaks Forrest" a landmark in Selwyn and Canterbury and has been greatly affected by The CPW scheme over the last 7 years. It will definitely lose its niche if the head race canal will be constructed in the location suggested. All effort in restoring and preserving a part of Canterbury's History will have been in vain. The landmark European Oak forest will disappear either by water seepage or by the owner finally having an excuse to cut it down. It is obvious that I do not want the scheme to go ahead. I would not like final consent being granted till the exact location of the head race canal is determined. I would like the canal, if it is going to be constructed, to be mid in shareholders land so they can experience the effects of the construction and operation of their own scheme.

Yours sincerely

Madeleine de Jong
The Oaks Historic Homestead
11 March 2010