

In the matter of:

Resource consent applications to  
take and use water from the Lower  
Waitaki River for the Hunter  
Downs Irrigation Scheme and other  
Lower Waitaki River mainstem cases

1. My name is John Webster.
2. I am immediate past Chairman of North Otago Irrigation Company (1992-2008).  
Past member of Irrigation North Otago and represent North Otago Irrigation Company.
3. I am executive director of Mitchell & Webster Ltd (Farming Company) and Topflite Limited (Petfood wholesaler)

#### ANNUAL ALLOCATION

4. I support the reduction in annual allocation as set out in the appendix 1 attached to the Minute to Parties dated 11/12/09 for the following reasons
5. North Otago Irrigation Company has a take of .4 litres per second per hectare which is significantly less than the requirement of HDI of .53 litres per second per hectare.
6. I understand that the 3.06 cumecs sought for the Waiho Downs area is now separate to the Hunter Downs allocation and a lesser allocation is in order.

7. The protection of existing consent holders takes and allocations is critical to a successful acceptable decision for all parties.
8. Therefore when existing consents are reviewed by Ecan as per the requirements of the Waitaki Allocation Plan other takes will I understand be modeled as per the conditions set out in the HDI decision.
9. The total existing takes on the river currently total 53 cumecs. If Hunter Downs Irrigation is included the total is 73.5 cumecs including water for Waiho Downs.
10. How will this allocation work to protect existing irrigators ? With a minimum river flow of 150 cumecs then existing irrigators will be required to begin ramping down their take if the river flow drops below 223.5 cumecs. Meanwhile HDI do not have to begin ramping down till a flow of 175 cumecs as per draft decision.
11. A reduction in allocation will still allow HDI the opportunity to fulfill its water take requirements but the take conditions for this allocation need to be further altered to protect all existing irrigation takes and reliability.

#### IRRIGATION NORTH OTAGO

12. The area proposed to be covered by an INO consent is much closer to the Waitaki River catchment. It indeed makes sense to allow an allocation for this area.
13. North Otago Irrigation Company already have 8 cumecs consented (20,000 hectares).
14. INO has estimated there is a further requirement for 8 cumecs for a further 20,000 hectares.

15. The allocation of 90 cumecs set aside for irrigation purposes under the W.A.P. should provide enough water for this purpose.

#### LAPSING PERIOD

16. The lapsing period for HDI should be aligned with the lapsing period for NBTC.

I appreciate the opportunity to further submit on this important project.

J. Webster