



OPUHA WATER PARTNERSHIP

PO BOX 27
PLEASANT POINT
Phone: 03 6147801
Fax: 03 6147860
E-mail: peter@opuha.co.nz

Commissioner PR Skelton
C/ Environment Canterbury
P.O. Box 345
Christchurch 8140

By Email

14th January 2010

Dear Sir

Please find attached our submission on the minute issued by you 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 mainstream case”.

Although Opuha Water Partnership has not been a submitter in the past we feel there is now enough direction in your minute to cause us and the people in the Timaru District some concern.

On acceptance of this submission as valid we would asked to be heard by the panel.

Yours sincerely

Peter Scott
CEO Opuha Water Partnership

Submission – Hunter Downs Minute 11th December 2009

In the matter of this submission we would like to address the advice as written in the minute and contained in Paragraph 10.

10. In that evidence Mr McKenzie asserted that we should exclude the Timaru District component of the HDI command area and thus make the resulting water available for the proposed INO scheme which as we understand it is wholly within the Waitaki District. We will not go into any more detail here because it is all contained in Mr McKenzie's evidence. We are content to say that we think there is some force in this contention and in the absence of argument to the contrary we would be inclined to accept it. We note too that Mr McKenzie's evidence was supported by Dr Helen Brookes in her evidence on behalf of Waitaki First Inc.

In respect to this matter we would object to the exclusion of the Timaru District as indicated.

The Timaru District and Mackenzie District have long contended that access to water from the catchments that feed the Waitaki system for provision of further water for irrigation, energy development and amenity use is a high priority.

Provision of water for such uses is possible by allowing access to water from Lake Tekapo. Both the South Canterbury Irrigation Trust and Meridian Energy are aware of this. It seems unlikely that there will be water available for future projects under the reasoning used by Mr McKenzie

It would seem to Opuha Water Partnership that if the advice given by Mr McKenzie is heeded then there is no likelihood of any water reaching the Timaru District and less likelihood of any water reaching those in the eastern lowland area of the Mackenzie District. This would then seem to lack any real logic as the majority of water in the Waitaki system is supplied from the Mackenzie district.

Opuha Water Partnership have been part of a scoping study undertaken Meridian that looked at the reticulation of water in the central South Canterbury area. They had intended to look at a feasibility study that included the reticulation of Hunter Downs water up to Pareora and the Te Ngawai.

We are not sure where this leaves those interested in water for this area if the advice in paragraph 10 is followed.

Meridian it would seem are seeking to allocate as much water as possible below their storage and generation sites so as to make it impossible for people with in the Timaru District and the Mackenzie District east of Burkes Pass to gain access to water.

We believe there is a failure in the system if this happens.