

14 January 2010

Attention: Ciana Cerri  
Consent Hearings Officer

Environment Canterbury

PO Box 345  
Christchurch 8140

Dear Mrs Ciana Cerri,

COCC 260084

FILE REF:	
DOCUMENT No.	4991
18 JAN 2010	
Cerri	

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Hunter Downs Irrigation minute as provided by your office 14 December 2009.

As previously submitted by the South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce in June 2007 file reference cobc-25821 (attached for reference), we believe that the Timaru District should receive a water allocation from the Hunter Downs Scheme. This is essential for regional economic and social development enabling diversification, increases in production and increased farm values.

The assumption that water from one catchment can only be used in the same catchment area is erroneous. On this basis the majority of the current irrigated area from the Waitaki to Oamaru is outside the catchment. Most of the precipitation falls in South Canterbury and hence this district should have access to this water.

The South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce wishes to be heard at the reconvened hearing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Smith  
Chief Executive