

IN THE MATTER OF the Resource management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER OF resource consent application CRC 060253 by
Falconer, Macassey and Cook Allan Gibson Trustee
Co. Limited for a water permit to take and use
surface water in the Upper Waitaki Catchments

To Canterbury Regional Council

**SUPPLEMENTARY EVIDENCE OF DAVID POWER IN SUPPORT OF PEAK
VALLEY STATION LAKE BENMORE**

My name is David Power and I am a farmer/consultant and part owner of the property. I hold a Bachelor of Commerce in Farm Management conferred by Lincoln University, a Masters of Applied Science in Pasture Agronomy conferred by Lincoln University.

I have been involved with agriculture all my working life. From 2002 I had 3 years planning/resource management consulting experience within the Queenstown, Central Otago and Westland District Councils with C. Hughes and Associates. I have served a term as a member of the Wanaka Community Board.

1. The following evidence is in relation to a question raised by Commissioner Bowden to applicants Falconer, Macassey and Cook Allan Gibson Trustee Co. Limited relating to Policy 7 of the Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Regional Plan. Commissioner Bowden sort clarification of how the application considered this policy.
2. The policy considers whether to grant or refuse to take dam divert or use water from streams where the mean annual low flow is less 100 litres per second, the consent authority will have regard to whether there are alternative locations for the activity on larger water bodies
3. *This policy seeks to control taking water from streams when there is a viable alternative. The ecological values of these streams are often uncertain and this policy provides for a cautious approach to altering their flow.*

4. Shepherds Creek and Coal Creek have proposed minimum flow to protect in stream ecology.
5. Fish screens prevent fish from entering intake pipes. No structures impede fish passage in the creek as a 150mm screened pipe is on the creek bed
6. Ecan's GIS, Dr Meredith or Fish and Game have identified neither Shepherds Creek nor Coal Creek as having any specific fishery values or habitat.
7. The only alternative source of water is from Lake Benmore which would require significant pumping costs and construction by the lake edge. The nearest source of electricity is 15 kilometers away so diesel powered pumps would be required which could pose environmental hazards close to the lake
8. The gravity fed spray irrigation system that the use of the creeks allows is efficient and economical to operate.
9. Further monitoring and consent conditions gives the consent authority further security in considering the effects and any mitigation requirements of the water takes
10. Fishery values are further protected by the application as an irrigation and fertilizer buffer zone of 60m from water ways and fencing of creeks and dams within the irrigation area is proposed.

Conclusion

11. Taking water from Lake Benmore is not considered a viable alternative to the gravity fed spray irrigation from the creeks. Through consent conditions stream values are recognised and protected. Further monitoring will allow the consent authority to have continued input into the consent conditions.