

LANDSCAPE – THE EXTENT TO WHICH THIS IS RELEVANT?

TABLED AT HEARING

Date 16/10/2009

Regional Context

Abstraction and Use – WRP

Landscape effects arising from the proposed abstraction and use on the waterways are relevant by provisions contained within the WRP, including:

- Objective 1(c)
- Policy 4
- Policy 12
- Section 9 of the WRP

Evidence of Mr. Brown addresses effects arising from the take and use of water on the waterbodies.

Land use and discharge

Structures and earthworks within the margins of a waterway, as well as discharges directly to the waterway are likely to generate landscape effects on the areas affected. The relevant planning provisions (RPS and NRRP) seek to protect natural character and landscape values of waterways and their margins. Evidence of Mr Brown

District Context

All applicants (Five Rivers, Killermont (WHL), Southdown Holdings, Killermont Station) are within the Waitaki District.

Irrigation and farming activities permitted in the Waitaki District Plan (provided they are not undertaken within any areas identified as being ONL).

The range of activities required to give life to the farm operations on each site are either permitted activities in the District context (such as pivots, intake structures), or have already obtained consent (earthworks and cubicle stables). Refer Appendix D to evidence - Kyle.

Structures themselves and on site activities have already been considered in a district context - existing environment.

Is the greening of the landscape relevant to these applications?

- Physical infrastructure on land – permitted or consented (WDC).
- Abstraction – effect on landscape quality of the water body and its margins (ECAN relevant here – effects de minimus)
- Take infrastructure – landuse effect on landscape quality of the water body and its margins - effect on landscape quality of the water body and its margins (ECAN relevant here – effects not more than minor)
- Discharges - landuse effect on landscape quality of the water body and its margins - effect on landscape quality of the water body and its margins (ECAN relevant here – effects not more than minor)
- Changes in land cover as a result of irrigation and use of water – land use activity. For these farms a change from wilding pines, hieracium (Hawkweed) and brown top (and associated soil erosion) to managed pasture cover. In my view it is questionable whether this is a relevant Regional Council consideration. In any event it is addressed in the evidence of Brown.