

Before a Hearings Panel of the Canterbury Regional Council

Under Resource Management Act 1991

In the matter of applications for Regional Council Resource Consents to take and use water in the Upper Waitaki River Catchments

TABLED AT HEARING
Date *22/10/2009*

OVERVIEW – WILLIAM SUTHERLAND

Overview

1. Diversion of Serpentine Creek into Wairepo Creek. The Wairepo Creek flows East from its source through Tarnbrae, Ribbonwood, Gleneryie Downs, Ohau Downs, Benmore and finally to Willowburn Station. Wairepo Creek is supplemented by the Serpentine Creek through a 50\50 split weir which A J and W H Sutherland, Benmore Station hold the Resource Consent NoCRCO11266. This was renewed January 2003. This renewal was from an historical water right going back to when Benmore Station was 350,000 acres in 1880. This diversion was put in place because the Wairepo dries up in extreme situations. This creek is our lifeline for all our rural stock and domestic water at Benmore Station. Benmore holds an active Irrigation water consent out of the Wairepo Creek No CRC940233A/B.

Questions/Concerns

2. Contamination of our domestic and rural water is a huge concern Wairepo Creek flows thru Ohau Downs [Five Rivers]. Serpentine Creek flows through Glen Eyrie Downs as does Wairepo (Williamson Holdings). In both of these scenarios where will the stock water come from. In the winter when the proposed irrigation scheme isn't operating where will the water come from? The irrigation consent will not run June through September. The proposed number of cattle to be run either free range or housed will consume a huge water resource.

