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**IRISHMAN  
CREEK**  
BIRTHPLACE OF  
THE JETBOAT

Commissioner Paul Rodgers,  
c/o Canterbury Regional Council,  
PO Box 345,  
CHRISTCHURCH.

29<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Dear Commissioner,

**RE: Upper Waitaki Catchment Water Applications**

It appears that the process for considering the above applications is nearing its conclusion, and that you and your fellow commissioners will soon be able to make your determinations. I have no doubt you will be as relieved as the applicants when this is completed.

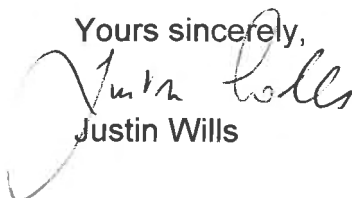
I felt it might be worth recording how dispiriting we have found the process. We are one very small applicant simply trying to renew a consent that we have held since 1970. We had just completed the steps necessary to gain the renewal when Marion Hobbs called in all consent applications. We were somewhat encouraged by ECAN who advised that, whilst they could no longer issue our consent, as we had fulfilled all the requirements the eventual issue should be straightforward. Some hope! Now, \$75,000 poorer and 6 years later, our consultant advises us that if our application is successful it will be subject to 14 pages of conditions including ongoing monitoring costs that will be considerable (we are the only user of our particular water body) and some of which will apply to our whole farm (the area for which consent is sought is less than 1/2%).

We do appreciate the principle of "the greater good", and the public concern about irrigation and water quality. However, it is the failure of the process to distinguish between renewals and new applications, together with any allowance for the scale of the activity, that is disappointing.

The end result will be that the larger applicants will accept the costs and conditions as they will be able to absorb them, whilst the smaller operators like ourselves who believe fervently in the traditional manner in which we operate, will slowly fade away – like the Cheshire cat, albeit without the grin.

Perhaps it was ever thus, but to us it seems somewhat ironic that the outcome may be the opposite of what the public really wants.

Yours sincerely,

  
Justin Wills

EC - CMC
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