

OHOU SNOW HOLDINGS LTD

Operators of Ohau Snow Fields and Lake Ohau Lodge

3 February 2010

The Committee of Commissioners

C/o Mrs Ciana Cerri
Consents Hearing Officer
Canterbury Regional Council
58 Kilmore Street
CHRISTCHURCH

RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION – TO TAKE AND USE WATER IN THE UPPER WAITAKI CATCHMENT AND OTHER ASSOCIATED APPLICATIONS – 15TH MINUTE OF COMMISSIONERS

A STATEMENT OF VIEW in light of Mr Whata's memorandum.

I understood the Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Regional Plan (WCWARP) to have been borne out of the worthy process of allocating water the key and driving resource of the catchment in such a manner that due consideration was given to all aspects of the innumerable and complex impacts on the whole of the catchment's resources and it's beneficiaries. And it is a grand document with objectives and rules endeavouring in this imperfect world to provide the guidance needed from a plan.

The grounds for my submission opposing specifically the Five Rivers Limited take was that combined with the Southdown Holdings application and others they are grossly outside the water allocation take for irrigation from above the outlet of Lake Ohau. I understand that between Five Rivers and Southdown alone they have applied for 24 million m³ annually when the WCWARP only allows for half this amount at 12 million m³ and should a combined take of this order be granted then the validity of the WCWARP and all of the resource allocation considerations must be brought into question.

For this reason it is not just that it has an impact on the allocation of water for recreation and tourism for which Ohau Snow Holdings Ltd is directly concerned about but begs the question as to what other impacts this gross mis-allocation would have on balances considered by the WCWARP.

It should also be understood that the water take applications did not disclose in any fullness the intended activities and consequent impacts for which the water take was to be used. If for instance the intended use was to pump the water taken directly into water tankers which were consequently driven to out of the region and bottled for sale and consumption then the only consideration would have been the impact of the take. However this is simply not the case.

LAKE OHOU, NORTH OTAGO, P O BOX 51, TWIZEL, NEW ZEALAND

PHONE AND FACSIMILE (03) 4389 885

EMAIL mike.louise@ohau.co.nz INTERNET www.ohau.co.nz

For these reasons it is my opinion that a holistic approach must now be adopted and that the Committee should not make a determination on the applicants water right applications independently of the effluent applications.

Mike Neilson
Ohau Snow Holdings Ltd