

Anne Braun-Elwert,
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To:

The Commissioners hearing the applications for 110 resource consents to take, use and discharge water, in the Upper Waitaki Catchment.

I oppose all of the above resource consents.

I'm not against irrigation per se in the Mackenzie Basin, where it has little or no impact on landscape values, or on water levels in lakes and rivers.

I am dead against irrigation for the purposes of dairying in the Mackenzie Basin. Dairying is a greedy use of water, requiring huge volumes to make green pasture, which is simply "unnatural" in the normally dry area of the Mackenzie.

It is not just the huge quantities of water that are of concern to me, but also the considerable amount of electricity required to pump the water onto the land. To plan for dairying in places such as the Mackenzie where there is only 600mm average rainfall per year or less, is environmentally irresponsible. If the true cost to the environment were counted it would also be discovered that it is economically unviable. Dairy farming is ephemeral but the loss of that iconic landscape would be everlasting.

Anne Braun-Elwert, Mackenzie resident for 25 years.