



attachment 3 Consent area numbers

To: All Media: From: Jane Zusters - Mackenzie Guardians Inc 7 December 2009

Opposition to New Zealand's First 'Battery Cow Farm'

Opponents to the Upper Waitaki Resource Consents hearing will be giving evidence on **Wednesday 9 December 2009 at the Christchurch Town Hall**, starting at 9.30 am.

The Mackenzie Guardians is a group formed recently to oppose 110 applications to take, use and discharge up to 90 million cubic metres of water a year from our high country rivers, streams and lakes in the Mackenzie Basin, South Canterbury.

Many of the public do not know that there are plans to irrigate more than 27,000 hectares of the Mackenzie Basin, a natural dry land landscape which has been part of NZ's main tourist route for decades. It's a well-loved 'natural desert' that is surprisingly biologically rich.

New Zealand's first 'battery cow farms' are also being proposed for this area, with 17,000 cows housed 24 hours a day in "cubicle stables" for 8 months of the year (March to October).

During the summer months the cows will also be locked up for 12 hours a day. These 'battery farms' are planned for natural moraine and glacial outwash land near Lake Ohau, next to a conservation reserve and QE II covenanted area of tussock.

Submissions relating to the current Upper Waitaki applications for resource consents can be viewed on the Environment Canterbury website
<http://ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/consent-projects/waitaki-consents/upper-waitaki/Pages/submitter-evidence.aspx#mackenzie>

Huge central pivot irrigators over half a kilometre long are already turning the Mackenzie Country tussock landscape into unnatural swathes of green on the main tourist route in the Mackenzie Basin between Twizel and Omarama.

At stake is a storehouse of unique and endangered plants and wild life, and our film and tourist industries. "Our children will inherit the weeds and dried up rivers whose birds have all gone. Let us learn from the mistakes that have been made elsewhere in the world and protect the Mackenzie Country," says artist Jane Zusters.

In addition to the Upper Pataki applications, new consents have been applied for to discharge 1.7 million litres a day of liquid effluent from 16 new factory dairy farms via proposed irrigation systems. These consent applications were notified in The Press on 21 November 2009 and submissions to Environment Canterbury close on December 18.

The applications also cover the construction of three huge ponds capable of storing 76,000 cubic metres of cow poo before it is spray irrigated, and the right to discharge contaminants to the air from the enclosed animals.
(Notified applications and map of Mackenzie area attached).

The Mackenzie Guardians Society has engaged Wellington lawyer, Mathew McLelland for the hearing in Christchurch on Wednesday. Expert witnesses will be called to present evidence. Artist Jane Zusters will start the proceedings with a short film showing the affected sites. The film was made with the generosity of people in the film industry who love the Mackenzie Country.

Prominent actor Sam Neill and artist Grahame Sydney have provided written statements in support of the Mackenzie Guardians.

For more information contact Jane Zusters Tel 03 389 3509
<http://mackenzieguardians.co.nz/>

To: all Media

Stop our rivers becoming toxic trickles / Singers support Artists' Water Protest Show

Well known singers **Malcom McNeil** and **Rima te Wiata** are singing in support of **Water Show** the closing of the exhibition **he awa reo : rivertalk** at Coca Gallery, Christchurch. Russell Norman of the Green party and Murray Rodgers author of *Canterbury's Wicked Water* will also be speaking about water issues .

2-4 pm Saturday, December 12th, 2009 entry by donation

On October 30, 2009 Environment Canterbury gave Central Plains Water, a private company, consent to take water from the Waimakariri and Rakaia rivers for irrigation on the Central Canterbury Plains. Waianiwaniwa Valley farmers were delighted that their valley will not be flooded for a dam but a private company still got the water rights.

"Canterbury water belongs to all of us. We love our rivers but their water is being sucked up into irrigators and our rivers are varnishing. This is a sad day for our rivers and children and the generations to come." says artist Sally Hope
"We are worried that Canterbury's braided rivers are becoming toxic trickles. The over allocation of our river flows for irrigation results in poor water quality, low oxygen content, high bacterial counts, high turbidity and a substrate masked by mud and silt. Canterbury's lowland rivers are polluted to the point where they are unsafe to swim in or drink from because of ongoing faecal contamination. We are a group of artists who got together to make an exhibition about the Waimakariri River. This is the first time a private company Central Plains Water has been given the water rights that belong to us all.' says Hope

Accompanying this exhibition are the winning entries of a river art competition for Canterbury School Children that was judged by Lady Diana Isaacs

he awa reo : river talk

This is the second *artists for save our water* project comprising Mark Adams, Nigel Brown, Linda James, Sally Hope, Sam Mahon, Albi McCarthy, Margaret Ryley, Ramonda Te Maiharoa, Irene Schroder, BeckyTurrell, Ben Woolcombe and Jane Zusters.

Sponsored by The Malvern Hills Protection Society and Alpine

Jets the artists journeyed the Waimakariri River seeking inspiration for this exhibition. The artists celebrate through their art this magnificent braided river threatened by the proposed Central Plains Water Scheme.

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