

**IN THE MATTER** of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act)

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of Resource Consent applications – to take and use water in the Upper Waitaki Catchment and associated applications

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## Statement of Stephen Carswell

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### **Introduction**

1. My name is Stephen Carswell and I live with my partner near Akaroa on an 8ha block of land. One quarter of the land has been covenanted with the QE II Trust.
2. I am also on the committee of the Friends of Banks Peninsula and the Akaroa Civic Trust. Both groups are involved in trying to restrict inappropriate development as well as the preservation of important landscape and heritage.
3. This evidence is supplementary to my original submission dated 26 September 2007.

### **History**

4. My association with the Waitaki Valley is in my youth, when we spent holidays with family friends who worked at the Waitaki Dam Power site. The stay at Waitaki was always the first stop on our holidays to Central Otago. I have fond memories of picnicking by the bridge at Kurow and the clear blue water against the scenery of hills and mountains. At times I was almost overwhelmed by the landscape which created a feeling of awe and freedom within me.
5. In the wider area, one of my ancestors (John Cotton Rowley), in company with a Captain Hamilton rode from Christchurch to Waipiata, near Ranfurly, to take up the first leases of land in the area in the late 1850's.
6. My grandfather was born in the area and he developed a keen interest in botany and became a prolific tree planter. Groves of trees still stand in the areas he farmed.

7. Those youthful memories of the dramatic landscapes of the Waitaki Valley and the Mackenzie Country have reinforced my life by frequent contacts with the area such as when I was teaching at Mackenzie College, Fairlie.

### **My concerns**

8. My concerns are that future generations will only experience rivers degraded by pollution and decreased volumes of water.
9. An image of cows eating lush green grass with a backdrop of snow clad mountains and pristine lakes may look attractive on a box of Swiss chocolates, but here it is ironic that the dairy industry uses New Zealand's clean, green image to advertise its products, yet is responsible for degrading the quality of such a landscape.
10. Intensive farming and nitrate leaching protection practices are open to human error and abuse. I notice one of the applicants describes a successful dairy farm as one that is sustainable, yet states the Farm Environmental Management Plan (FEMP) as onerous. This seems strange terminology for one committed to sustainable farming.
11. As our overseas markets turn to being more aware of food miles and carbon footprints of production, it will be more important than ever to maintain sound and sustainable food production.
12. Climate change in the coming years is also going to raise further concerns about food production and the knowledge that the products being consumed are not degrading this planet will become even more important. I oppose a consents term of 35 years.
13. For these reasons I request all of the applications be declined.

**Signed**

Stephen Carswell

**Date** 1 December 2009