

Dear CPW Hearing Commissioners

**Please accept this objection submission in lieu of our speaking at the CPW Hearings.**

We believe **an** irrigation/water storage scheme would be beneficial to the Canterbury Plains, however we have major concerns regarding **the Central Plains Water Scheme**:

## **1. Concern over the effect on our property**

- 1.1 No real consultation with us, as directly affected landowners** - with a 'less than 14 metre' bywash canal proposed to run internally down the length of our property, we oppose the CPW Scheme because it will necessarily impact on us and more importantly we feel we have not received enough information on the effect of the scheme on our property - have had very poor communication from CPW – have been treated as unimportant little guys.

If sited exactly as originally planned the bywash canal will be 10 metres from our 'Auxiliary Building' which is in fact SDC approved stage one of 2 stage house building site. It will also necessitate the removal of our established norwest stock windbreak and poplars plus new plantings.

Not through any advice nor communication initiated by CPW, but by our own research, it now appears that approximately 200 m of the canal now will be 'within' Henderson Road rather than through our property, but updated maps show that the canal will still pass through our property. CPW have not been able to confirm, clarify, nor give details of this bywash canal, despite our writing for clarification. Even with resiting the bywash canal down Henderson Road it is likely to still destroy the windbreak.

**Note:** This siting of the bywash canal does not comply with CPW's stated intention of "avoiding all houses and significant farm buildings and as far as possible avoiding small properties that are unlikely to take water".

- 1.2 Loss and uncertainty of long term continuity of the existing water race system** - of great concern is the possibility of eventual closure of parts of the existing water race system. We refer to URS Memorandum 41, 11 September 2006 to SDC from W Lewthwaite. We take it from this memo that there is some doubt that SDC intends to continue long term with water races in the area. We are small private owners who cannot afford to buy into the 'CPW Scheme'. We do need access to the existing water race supply as we use this water race for stock water for our small scale horse and complimentary cattle finishing operations.

Evidence for our following concerns has been presented to the commissioners by other parties, but we would like it noted that these are also reasons for our objection to **the CPW scheme**. Note we do not object in principle to an irrigation scheme.

## **2. Concern over the lack of transparency for the supposedly 'public' scheme**

- 2.1 Lack of real, factual, information readily available to anyone concerned.
- 2.2 Privatisation of our waterways - concern over the 'corporate farming' control of the Canterbury waterways.
- 2.3 The conflict of interest between CPW Ltd and the CPW Trustees.
- 2.4 Growing evidence of total underestimation of cost of the Scheme.

## **3. Concern over the effects on the environment**

### **3.1 Concern over CPW Scheme's effects on the sustainable land use:**

We believe the CPW Scheme will lead to intensified and increased dairy farming across the area with inevitable nutrient runoff effects, affecting groundwater quality and Christchurch water supply quality. Currently, New Zealand-wide, dairying has a poor record of responsibility with regard to effluent disposal. Who will control, supervise, police the "mitigating" measures proposed by CPW to reduce the dairying pollution of our waterways. Who will clean up the mess; pay the bills in 10 years time?

### **3.2 Major concerns about the effect of water takes from the two rivers**

It is my understanding that CPW have privately acknowledged the scheme will have significant effects and apparently documents sourced from Selwyn District Council back this up. Added to this is pressure from the water take for the Ashburton Community Water Trust scheme.

- This will disturb the water flows particularly on the Waimak., an internationally recognised braided river.
- Thus affecting the habitats of birds, fish, animals and plants.
- Thus affecting fishing/jet boating/recreation etc
- Effect on Lake Ellesmere and lowland streams

## **4. Concern over wider social and economic effects**

- 4.1 The impact of the scheme on the river water flows will cause social and economic issues for established farms, historical sites, jet boating, fishing, recreation groups etc.
- 4.2 The construction of this scheme with dam, canals, races, bywashes etc will cause landscaping/visual disturbances including removal of established shelter trees.
- 4.3 Concern over the safety of dam construction, being an earth dam, and concern over safety of open canals.

**In summary we believe there are too many issues and lack of proven detail for the CPW scheme to be allowed proceed.**

**Thank you for your consideration of our views.**