

10 August 2008

Full Name: John Fraser Ogilvie

Address: 3 Nilson Lane

Kirwee

Phone Number: 03 318 1705 Fax Number: 03 318 1740

**In the Matter of the Resource Management Act 1991 and Resource Consents Applications from the Selwyn District Council and Environment Canterbury, and the Designations for the Compulsory Taking and Use of Land by the Central Plains Water Trust.**

**1. My submission**

I oppose these applications for both resource consents and designations to construction, operation and maintenance of all parts of the proposed Central Plains Irrigation Scheme

**2. The reasons for making my submission are:**

The proposed scheme is being touted by it's supporters as a Community Water Enhancement Scheme.

In reality the enhancement is primarily to the community of shareholders that have invested in the proposed scheme. The scheme is not supported by the wider community, as is evidenced by the broad community opposition to Central Plains Water's proposal.

There have been other schemes completed in recent years that have the support of their wider communities, where greater consultation and community involvement was sought in the planning and development stages. The benefits of their schemes have been broader than just irrigation.

The major electricity generation in this country is from hydro sources. With the elevation of the plains and water source there is scope for a combined irrigation/power generation option.

The allocation of available water from the Rakaia and Waimakariri rivers is a major resource that belongs to the wider community. If that resource were to be allocated to Central Plains Water under their current proposal, the water resource would no longer be available to any future scheme that could benefit the wider community.

I oppose these applications for both resource consents and designations to construction, operation and maintenance of all parts of the proposed Central Plains Irrigation Scheme

I would support the balanced use of the community's water resources that would include irrigation.

This scheme adversely affects environmental values, destroys or plunders the use; amenity and scenic integrity that many land owners and the community have enjoyed, and have a right to retain.

The applicant has failed to adequately consider the requirements of the Resource Management Act to identify adverse landscape and amenity effects arising from the development and detail of how these will be mitigated, avoided or remedied. They are seeking approval to water rights before they have fully disclosed these details. Those that may be directly adversely affected by the proposal, have scant detail on what, if any, remedies will be offered to mitigate their loss.

The flooding of the Waianiwaniwa Valley to provide a storage capability when the area already has a perfect natural storage capacity in Lake Coleridge is an unnecessary waste of productive land, as is the proposed canal system to distribute the water resource.

I am aware there is a conservation order that applies to use of water from Lake Coleridge. Conservation Orders are put in place to protect a Community asset. Surely, in the same interest of a Community, these orders can be revisited and amended in the interests of the wider Community too.

In other schemes, the elevation of the water resource has been utilized for electricity generation in addition to irrigation. Any irrigation scheme where water descends the Plains requires obstructions to slow and remove energy from the water flow. This is wasted energy that should be harnessed to generate electricity for the benefit of the wider community, or to offset the establishment and running costs of the scheme. Any scheme should be piped to harness this energy, which could be ongoing, as river water levels permit right throughout the year, not just during the irrigation season.

Piping is less obtrusive on the environment and allows affected land owners that would otherwise lose land to canals, to continue productive use of their land. Piping would lower compensation costs for the scheme, including bridging and access issues associated with a canal system. Piping would also reduce evaporative and seepage losses, and would offset serious safety concerns for those living and working adjacent to the proposed open canals.

Of particular concern is the proposed Upper Waimakariri water intake system, where I have had personal experience of the amenity of this area, and the pleasure of introducing overseas visitors to its scenic and activity values. This area has important scenic and recreational values that should not be impeded through the development or operation of this scheme.

**3. The decision I wish the consent authority to make regarding the consent applications and designations lodged with the Selwyn District Council and Environment Canterbury:**

It is my wish that the current application, as proposed by Central Plains Water, with regard to all consent applications and designations, is declined.

That if granted:

The collection and distribution of water be via a piped scheme.

That the scheme benefits the wider community by incorporating electricity generation.

The intake and channelling of water from the Waimakariri and Rakaia rivers does not prejudice the rights, use and enjoyment of current river users.

Any water taken from the Waimakariri River is not taken upstream from Highway 72.

The environment of the landscape is not degraded by structures and land works associated with the scheme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. J. L.', written over a horizontal line.

Signature of person making submission

10 August 2008

Date