

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of The Proposed Hurunui and Waiau
River Regional Plan

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF EDDIE MURPHY ON BEHALF OF SECONDARY
SCHOOLS WHO OPERATE OUTDOOR EDUCATION KAYAKING
PROGRAMMES ON THE HURUNUI RIVER**

October 2012

Introduction

1. I am a Teacher of Physical Education and Outdoor Education at Christchurch Boys High School and have been in the role from 1999 to the present day. My previous teaching roles were with Hillmorton High School in 1998 and St Bede's College from 1990 – 1997. I successfully completed a Bachelor of Physical Education (Otago) 1985 – 1988, a Diploma of Teaching (Christchurch College of Education) in 1989 and a Bachelor of Adventure Recreation and Environmental Sustainability (CPIT) in 2010. I have been a recreational kayaker from 1989 to present, competent on white water grade 1 – 5.
2. I confirm that I have read and agree to comply with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses. This evidence is within my area of expertise, except where I state that I am relying on facts or information provided by another person. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions that I express.

Scope of Evidence

3. My evidence will cover:
 - a) Secondary school kayaking programmes and their use of the Hurunui River;
 - b) A Teacher's perspective of why we need our rights and interests in preserving the Hurunui River for our educational programmes clearly recognised and considered.

Secondary School Kayaking Programmes and their Use of the Hurunui River

4. I have conducted interviews with Teachers in Charge of Outdoor Programmes, at schools that currently operate or have operated kayaking programmes on the Hurunui River. They provided estimates of the range of student numbers involved in kayaking programmes and the years in which such school programmes have been running. Some schools have yet to

respond, but I have seen them operating kayaking outdoor education programmes on the Hurunui.

5. Six schools have regularly use the Hurunui River for kayaking outdoor education programmes, including Christchurch Boys High School, Shirley Boys High School, Hagley Community College, Cashmere High School, St Bede's College, Burnside High School, Riccarton High School. Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti has used the Hurunui River in recent years as has Oxford Area School and Geraldine High School. School kayaking education programmes have been running for some over 25 years. In summary, approximately 4000 or more students have been involved in schools kayaking programmes on the Hurunui River during this time (see Appendix 1).

6. Secondary school use of the Hurunui River for teaching kayaking has been occurring since the mid-late 1980's (Shirley Boys High School and Riccarton High School). Some schools (Shirley Boys High School and Christchurch Boys' High School) have had a significant history of using the upper sections of the Hurunui River for kayaking. Other schools have used the Hurunui and continue to do so; Hagley High School, Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti, St Bede's College, Cashmere High School and Riccarton High School have utilised the Hurunui River in the past, but more intermittently in recent years. Riccarton High School's use of the Hurunui reduced when they developed an outdoor education lodge near the Arnold River. Staff involved in kayaking programmes cite the Hurunui River as a river with very good grade 1 to 3 river features, consistent river flows, good road access and close proximity to Christchurch. These factors make the Hurunui ideal for teaching white water kayaking skills and minimising associated risks when conducting such programmes.

7. Schools report that they often use the river for 1 – 4 day trips, where students participate in a full range of outdoor activities, including camping, cooking, river safety, group management and environmental conservation as well as white water kayaking.

8. In terms of teaching and learning kayaking, teachers involved in kayaking programmes report the Hurunui River provides ideal river conditions for beginner to intermediate learners. These include:

- Proximity Hurunui River to Christchurch (1 to 1.5 hours driving time).
- Good Grade 1 to 3 river features (flow, currents, eddy's, waves) in close proximity to each other giving good river depth/flow with distinctive eddies and main current features. These features are well placed along the length of the river or section to challenge students to develop kayaking skills from slow to fast moving water conditions.
- The depth of flow enhances the river features and safety when instructing.
- Natural river flow levels are preferable, but low flows are less desirable.
- Good roadside access to a large proportion of the good kayaking sections of the river. The road is right beside the river. Road access enhances the usability of the river by kayakers and school groups, meaning you can put in and take off where ever suits the group. Road access also enhances the safety aspect for school kayaking should an accident occur. The ability to evacuate an injured student is always a consideration in outdoor activities.
- The section of the Hurunui River from the Salmon Farm (top gorge above Jollie Brook Stream) to the start of Maori Gully are the sections of river that schools use the most. Some schools use Moari Gully for advanced kayak ability students at low to medium flows (15-30 cumecs). Road access and isolation prevents many schools using the section from the bottom of Maori Gully to Mandamus , which provides very good grade 2-3 rapids and river features.
- Good flows for school groups range from 30 – 90 cumecs depending on the section of the river and the ability of the group. In high flows, where the majority of the flow is supplied by the South Branch, then schools tend to use the the river above the confluence of the South branch. If the flow is high through the upper section above the confluence, then depending on the ability of the group, schools would use the section just above Jollie Brook stream or below the South Branch down to the Maori Gully section. The higher flows are good for better ability groups as it provides the next progression and challenge in developing their skills.

9. If flows were restricted to 30-50 cumecs at Mandamus, then the ability to challenge our better paddlers at higher flows in the upper sections would be negated. Low flows have greater potential for rock entrapment or pinning of a kayak in shallow sections, whereas higher flows cover these potential hazards, particularly in the sections from Jollie Brook through to the confluence of the South Branch. High flows from the South Branch confluence to Maori Gully are good fun for our intermediate student kayakers.

10. With any Outdoor Education programme there is an element of environmental education. In general this involves understanding the environment, in this case the Hurunui River, and the ecosystems that they harbour. Teachers reported designing programmes for students to identify threats to the environment and what action is needed to protect and preserve the environment for the long term. We want our students through their kayaking experience to recognise the importance of protecting our river environments. Overseas data clearly identifies the extensive damage rivers are sustaining primarily through intensive farming, waste disposal, mining activity and damming by power companies. Such business entities clearly understand the significant value and profitability of water and have the financial ability to buy their right to the river. The Cree Indians in the United States have a saying: "When you have killed the last animal, eaten the last fish and polluted the last water, what is left? You can't eat money." Across the world, those needing that water for drinking, fishing, recreation and education are disadvantaged in terms of their ability to ensure their rights to rivers. Rivers are a limited resource in desperate need of protection and we work with our students to recognise this and through their experiences of kayaking on rivers, appreciate more the special nature of rivers, the threats posed to them and the action necessary for their long term protection.

11. Other rivers on the east coast of the Canterbury, such as the Ashley and Waipara River lack flow or are too braided (Lower Waiau, Lower Hurunui, Waimakariri, Rakaia, Ashburton, Rangitata) to allow for distinctive river features that make for a good teaching of river white water kayaking. Hence most white water kayaking in Canterbury occurs on the upper sections of the Hurunui River. The Hurunui has a reasonably good water flow throughout the year to allow for year round kayaking. The Clarence and Ashley rivers for the

most part lack regular sufficient flow levels for kayaking and are more isolated from road access. On the Clarence, river running beyond the Acheron river confluence is not viable for schools due to its isolated and remote character.

12. I encourage my students to question why one group would have more right to scarce resources than another. Why should these businesses and their quest for profits have more of a right to the Hurunui than recreationalists or educational school groups? Why should the business activity of a few come at the expense of the environment and other users? Does having your farm in close proximity to the river, give that farmer a greater claim to the river and its flows?
13. I believe schools and educational institutions have not been recognised as significant stakeholders and long term users of the Hurunui River. We have been marginalised by a lack of recognition and consultation by those wishing to exclude us from the decision making process. We have a right, just as other users, even more so, given the significant historical use of the upper sections of the Hurunui River.
14. We teach our students that it is imperative to preserve our environment for future generations. Evidence from overseas highlights the significant impact that people and industry have had, on not only rivers but many wildlife environments. I'm concerned that in New Zealand we will lose more and more of our special wild places, one of which is the Hurunui River. Other countries are slowly and painfully realising what they have lost. Given the world wide loss of wild rivers, protection should be foremost in our minds.

A Personal Recreational Kayaking Perspective of the Hurunui River.

15. I grew up learning to kayak on the Hurunui River, and on a personal level, I believe that the excellent white water features, combined with consistent flows all year round, have meant I have developed to the level of kayaking I enjoy today. Without such a good grade 1 - 3 kayak-friendly river in relative

close proximity to Christchurch, the opportunity to learn kayaking would be very much compromised. Other alternative rivers have limited flow throughout the year, poor river features or are a considerable distance from Christchurch. For over 20 years of I have derived considerable enjoyment from kayaking on the Hurunui River. I have particularly enjoyed taking friends and family kayaking with a wide variety of skill levels on this special river. They too have felt the excitement and exhilaration of white water kayaking. River conditions make it a safe and yet challenging stretch of river. Many other people kayak on the Hurunui and this provides an opportunity to meet and socialise with other people who are an important part of my community – quite a few have become long term friends. I feel very fortunate that with so many other recreational kayakers I have grown up with this fantastic white water resource and I would like to see it protected for future generations.

16. Water is a very valuable resource and there are a lot of power companies and farmers interested in the damming and diverting the Hurunui River. Current arrangements under the Resource Management Act mean that competing interests apply for resource consents for building dams for power or irrigation. It appears an unfair battle as business entities have superior resources to employ lawyers and experts to argue their case. Schools and recreationalists do not have the resources to fight such battles. We want to ensure our students and future students have access to the unique features and flows of the Hurunui River.

CONCLUSION

17. Canterbury schools have been using the Hurunui River since the mid-late 1980s and over 4000 students have used the river. We are a significant user of the river and a significant stakeholder wanting to see preservation of its flows and features. The Hurunui provides an ideal location for teaching white water kayaking and other outdoor education programmes, given the quality of the river and its access to Christchurch. The Hurunui is also a relatively safe learning environment, with road side access important for ensuring quick and safe evacuation is possible in case of injury. As well as learning new skills and developing confidence, students also learn about their environment and the importance of conservation.

18. On a personal level, the Hurunui has been an important part of my development as a kayaker, and is an important kayaking community resource. I am appalled that my rights to enjoy this resource might be negated by a small group seeking to make financial gain from this resource.

19. I believe it needs to be recognised that these battles for protecting our water ways are happening in every region. The effect is that water way degradation through pollution, diversion and damming is insidiously occurring across all regions. A more nation wide perspective and policy is required. Decisions about water ways need to be taken in to context with the threats, damage, diversion and damming that is being proposed and implemented on water ways across the region, the South Island and the whole country.

20. I believe that in New Zealand and across the world our wild places are being destroyed. We need to actively ensure that we protect the special places that are important to us and our future children. I would submit that the Proposed Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan needs to appropriately recognise the outstanding values of the Upper Hurunui River and protect them for the future and future generations. Our students are those future generations.

Eddie Murphy

October 2012

Appendix 1: Canterbury High School Kayaking Usage of the Hurunui River

	Christchurch Boys High School			St Bedes	Shirley Boys	Riccarton	Hagley College	Cashmere	Burnside High School	Oxford Area School	Geraldine High School
TIC	Dave Ralston			College	High School	High School		High School			
TIC	Richard Taylor			Eddie Murphy							
TIC	Eddie Murphy & Gary McNaughton			1991-97					Darren Findlay		
TIC	McNaughton			Bruce Cameron	John Field	Neil McKeegan	Dave Hazeldine	Neil Sloan		Peter Cooper	
1988											
1989					averaging	sometime in 80's	Going to Hurunui				
1990					25 - 30	until mid 90's	for 23yrs				
1991				approx 20-30	students	12-16 students	taking between				
1992				students	since 1988	OE	20 -45 students				
1993				1991 up until	4 day camp		for a 4 day camp				
1994	started kayaking on			2000			A third of the	Since 1994			
1995	Hurunui			2 -3 day			group paddle each	20 - 40 students			
1996				kayaking			day after the	per year			
1997				programme			first day	3 day trips			
1998	Yr 12	Yr 13	Total					camp at			
1999	49	18	67				Use the Jollie	Jollie Brook			
2000	63	22	85			Early 00's	Brook	So over 19 yrs			
2001	59	26	85	approx 12-16		changed to Kokiri	to Maori Gully	some 750 odd			
2002	49	22	71	students up to		where school		students			
2003	66	26	92	2003		lodge		Cover kayaking	2 days in		
2004	64	16	80	involved in a 3		located		and	the river		
2005	88	24	112	day program				river crossing	Jollie		
2006	123	29	152			still go up for			Brook to	Also kayak	Also kayak
2007	101	42	143			one day trips as		Kayaking top gorge	start Maori	on the	on the
2008	132	34	166			best local		to Dozy Stream	Gully	Hurunui	Hurunui
2009	122	40	162			moving water		and River Crossings		River	River
2010	36	41	77					55 students, 3 x 3days	55		
2011	35	38	73					55 students, 3 x 3 days	53	No info	No info
2012	53	23	76					48 students, 2 x 3days	44	returned	returned

Total No. Students	approx. 1440 + over 19 yrs	approx 300 + over 13 yrs	approx 625 + over 25 yrs	approx 200+ over 19 yrs	approx 530 + over 23 yrs	approx 750 + over 19 yrs	152	numbers not back yet
--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-----	----------------------

Summary Nine schools have regularly used the Hurunui River for kayaking education programmes
School kayaking programmes have been running for some 13 to 21 years
Approximately 4000 or more students have been involved in schools kayaking outdoor education programmes on the Hurunui River

