

## LINDSAY HILL

### WAIPARA WEST

#### SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED WAIPARA RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN - 31 MARCH 2011

##### **PARTIAL RESTRICTIONS – A BLOCK –**

Despite being a condition of our consents, no irrigation records of actual extraction have ever been collected. There is no metering of consents, but due to government policy this is about to be implemented.

The effect of extraction on river flow cannot be measured or determined.

It has been estimated that only 40% of allocated water is extracted.

Water consents are issued on a maximum take 24 hours a day, in reality this never occurs.

Most consents are extracted from the gravels and are from a large body (of an unknown quantity ) of ground water held in the gravels – essentially underground lakes that may have no relationship to the surface flow at all.

The relationship of the consents take, to the river flow are unknown.

Partial restrictions may be unnecessary and ineffective as consents may not be exercised to the full amount permitted, and have no relationship to surface flow and will not produce a positive result for the river.

The surface low flows cannot be directly attributed to irrigation – they naturally occur (see inflows from White Gorge).

The Waipara River is a very small river and has a really small take, the entire take is less than most single dairy farms ground water takes.

Setting surface low flow in White Gorge higher than naturally occurring summer flows, for introduced fish species that cannot survive the flood conditions, puts an unrealistic and unnecessary burden on irrigators.

In the current economic environment viticulture is in recession with an international down turn since 2008, an oversupply of grapes, falling prices and reduced sales.

The recent Christchurch Earthquakes and the loss of many bars, restaurants and the RWC puts our local industry under immense pressure. With two local wineries already in receivership and amalgamations taking place, many vineyards are being abandoned or are for sale, and no land sales are occurring.

It would be unrealistic in the current economic climate to expect government or the irrigators to be able to afford any water storage scheme to overcome an increased low flow, or partial restrictions on the A Block. We are an industry in crisis.