

Tabled at Hearing on 5th November 2015

Submitter B260

I am John Patrick Hughes, I farm in partnership with my brother on Maori Road Morven. The farm activities are well documented. Evidence I gave yesterday being 4th Nov. and also in Nov 2012 at plan hearing at Lincoln.

There is no need to overwhelm proceedings with repeated material, the problem we have is the same as the Bruce family. The problem is caused because the supplementary flow into the Waihao river from MGI tailrace is being changed to environmental flow. Before a hearing in Timaru, the application by MGI to discharge water into Waihao river, I asked Mr Murray Bruce if he could come with me and show video footage I knew that he had of fish, and falling river levels as the stream was drying up.

The fish were in pools and the video graphically demonstrated to what happens to Trout, Salmon and Ells. The video shows the Bruce's rescuing the fish, the salmon come into the Waihao river when the mouth (known as the Box) is open at the right time of the year. When salmon are running they are attracted by the Waitaki water. Murray Bruce and I would not have gone to the hearing if we knew it was to be changed to environmental flow, instead of supplementary flow.

Emma Christmas was one of the commissioners. the other name I do not recall. She was so moved by the video that she asked us to stop over in the lunch hour so she could see further footage. This footage included aerial filming of Lake Wainono and the Waihao river. The paper I submitted yesterday, that was discussed at the Waihao/ Wainono water user's meeting.

I was to attend the hearing by MGI to support their application, I took along Murray Bruce because of the video's, and also because he relies on shallow water takes, for irrigating their river flats. We also have to rely on the use of shallow wells for water. Ecan has monitored wells on our property for about forty years. With increasing irrigation in the district particular the Morven Hills and MGI Northern extension, the volume of underground water have increased and are still increasing in the area.

With the looming drought conditions at present it is critical that we are able to irrigate on our farm, we are only irrigating grass for silage for winter feed.

John P Hughes