

KLONDYKE DAM Application: RORM L

Joint hearing

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Date: 27/05/2018.

My name is McGregor Simpson I am the third generation that has lived in the Peel Forest - Arundel area and have an intimate knowledge of the Rangitata River since childhood through fishing, hunting and other activities. I have a background in law and accountancy and have farmed on the Banks of the river at Ferry Road, Arundel since 1985. I have a particular interest in geology and local history. Since 1992 I have been a member of the Geraldine Civil Defence team.

I wish to state emphatically that I am not anti-irrigation.

I have read the whole 1200 pages of the 2016 publication of the Rangitata Diversion Management Limited's Klondyke Storage Proposal reports.

I vehemently oppose the building of a water storage pond of the dimensions proposed at Klondyke for the following reasons.

In the event of a dam break and a large volume of water escapes into the Rangitata River the following scenarios would occur.

1. The Rangitata River currently has a capacity of approximately 4000 cumecs before it begins to leave the confines of the natural riverbed and stop banks. In 1994 a flood of this capacity was lapping the Rangitata's bridge at Arundel. I went there with the intent of closing the bridge to traffic. Employ of both Ashburton District Council and Timaru District Council together with a local farmer from Carew were lying on the bridge and putting their hands in the water. The bridge was shaking considerably to the extent I expected it to break at any time. Therefore 12,000 cumecs in the river would wipe out.
 - (a) Road bridges on S.H.1 and S.H.72 at Arundel
 - (b) Main rail trunk bridge for the South Island at Rangitata.

(c) Destroy the hydro-electric power transmission lines that cross the river that supply power to a large area of New Zealand. At least four of these.

(d) Destroy most of State Highway 1 between Ealing and Orari.

Road, rail and power conveyance infra-structure on the east-coast of the South Island would be destroyed. To travel from Christchurch to Timaru the route would be via Arthurs Pass, the West Coast, Haast Pass etc. Same trip.

(e) Destroy or damage dwellings in Peel Forest, Arundel, Rangitata, Rangitata Huts settlement, Orton, Orari and Clandeboye. One Hundred plus.

(f) Erode and destroy much valuable cropping land as consequence of flooding up to 25,000 hectares of land, making some properties un-viable.

(g) Destroy the Rangitata South Irrigation Limited's ponds at Arundel adding to the destruction downstream.

(h) Destroy the Clandeboye Dairy factory which was at one time the largest cheese factory in volume of production in the world. This factory is built on the site of a 2 metre flood plain in a flood of 1874.

2. There would be considerable loss of life at sites such as the Peel Forest Camping Ground, Arundel, Rangitata, Rangitata Mouth, Clandeboye, Orton as well as motorists on S.H.1 and other roads, those in or near the river bed and people working on farms in the flooded area. Three metres of water will drown all but the best long-distance swimmers. The company has claimed a possible death toll of 105, my belief is that it would be much higher.

3. I consider there is inaccuracy of GNS study of active faults near the proposed Klondyke Pond. ref: Klondyke Engineering Report page 9. (p 20 my folder It mentions Lake Heron, Quartz Creek, Hutt Peel Nor

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Hutt Peel South and Rakaia.

No mention is made of the following fault lines in the facinity, five in number.

Four Peaks fault-line,

Ealing fault-line left bank (Carew side) which goes through the Mayfield Hinds Irrigation Scheme ponds at Carew on the farm previously owned by Malcolm & Marie Hill. They are 450 acres in area.

Ealing fault-line right bank (Arundel side) which goes through the Rangitata South Irrigation Limited ponds at Arundel and ends near 90 Ferry Road Arundel. They are 790 acres in area and

currently the largest ponds in New Zealand. Coleridge faultline from Lake Coleridge to Whiterock Station in the Rangitata Gorge.

Last active on 24th or 31st March 1995. First rugby match of season Geraldine seniors playing at Bankapuka. Ray Bains care Ford Laser RB 2924. Elaborate

Blandswood Fault-line 1717

Geologist field visit for Timaru District Councillors early 2000's. Fault-line is on Houhere Park farm near Blandswood Road. Dated by trees showing an event on their growth rings. Fault-line goes Scotsburn Hills to Leamington Farm where I was brought up on. Rise up to Thews

2010 earth quake fissure opened up on this rise Wayne Keenan stood in it up to his waist.

Therefore there has been two significant earthquakes, 31 March 1995 and 5th September 2010 i.e. fifteen years apart near Klondyke/Shepherd Bush area which is not mentioned in the seismology report by R D R M L.

3. Thursday 20 March 1952 beautiful sunny day at Peel Forest school where I was standard 2 pupil. Ivan Mee gave us the afternoon off school a rare event and marched us through the village to

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Cams Cutting which goes down to the Peel Forest Camping Ground. Showed us Clarke Flat and told us that in 1828 or 1829 there was a battle there between Te Rauparaha who was waiting to cross the river to go north and local Maoris. Said 157 bodies lay in the tussock paddock. Went home and told Dad who said that is correct that is why the paddock has never been ploughed, then owner Billy McPhail. Common knowledge locally at the time, Dad was from Te Poi in Manukato.

Therefore this area is urupa, a cemetery or burial ground and must not be put in danger of being disturbed.

I wish the consent authority to make the following decision.

- (i) Decline the application in total on the grounds that the proposed scheme poses a considerable threat to people, properties and infrastructure downstream due to natural causes and/or constructure flaws of the structures.
- (ii) There is no indication in the application documents as to how Rangitata Diversion Race Limited will accept responsibility for such an event and how they will compensate victims of a disaster. No vicarious liability for their actions. To claim an act of God as an escape clause is a nonsense. God in His creation did not include irrigation ponds.
- (iii) My solution would be to find a way to enhance the present race system so that it could accommodate the extra water uptake and the extended area proposed to become irrigable.

Thank you for listening to me.