

The minimum flow of 1000lts on the Cam River was set to dilute the Rangiora sewage.

If the sewage wasn't in the river the minimum flow would have been 750lts.

The sewage was removed from the river in 2006 and the river has improved markedly since then.

The sewage was first put in the river in the 1920's and the river seemed to be able to absorb it until the 1970's when the town began to grow. The town and the amount of sewage grew, but the river did not.

By the 1980's and 90's the Cam water had deteriorated and the water was grey and cloudy, the stones had a covering of sludge on them and the river plants had died.

Today it is very different, with clean stones, sparkling water and healthy plants.

The sewage amounted to 70lts and was removed with no compensation to the minimum flow.

The Zone Committee recommended that the 1000lts be retained. It was given faulty information on which to base this decision.

The information was a river flow chart showing 1000lts at the bottom (minimum flow) and 1700lts at the top suggesting that these were the normal flows.

Reality is that the river gets below 1000lts, eg 666lts 28.2.15 and it only gets to 1700lts when it is in flood. (See enclosed charts).

## **CAM AND TRIBUTIES**

For the minimum flows the Cam is treated different to the tributies. The tributies, the Northbrook and Southbrook have minimum flows at a lower

level than the Cam. Which means the Cam will have restrictions earlier than the tributes (1 month).

This is very unfair and when this was shown to Mr Bayfield he allowed us to share with our neighbours the Smith's, who irrigate from the Southbrook (see enclosed letter). Environment Canterbury agreed this would have only a minor effect on the environment.

The Zone Committee is recommending a future minimum flow of 1200lts. This is disappointing, as it suggests The Zone Committee lacks knowledge of the river and if the flow charts are studied it would show that the water just isn't there and there would be no irrigating at all at 1200lts.

The Zone Committee says its goal is 90% reliability. This is not possible at 1000lts. There have been over 100 years dairying on our property.

The Waimakariri District Council recently tested a well on the farm (26 components), all were compliant (see tests included).

The farm is a self contained one ie, all animal feed is grown on the farm with very little nitrogen use. The overseer figure is therefore a low one.

Our farm is located midway between Rangiora and Kaiapoi and has a river frontage on the Cam, approximately 1km long, most of it on both sides.

Craig McIntosh