

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER APPOINTED
BY THE SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL**

IN THE MATTER the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of resource consents to occupy the Coastal Marine Area
with a tide gate and weir and to dam and divert water

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application by **SOUTHLAND REGIONAL
COUNCIL**

**EVIDENCE SUMMARY OF COLIN SHEN YOUNG
30 AUGUST 2024**

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1. My full name is Colin Shen Young. I am employed by Environment Southland and have assisted it with this application.
2. My evidence explains some of the history of the tide gates and weir, which are part of the Lower Mataura Catchment Flood Scheme.
3. The current tide gates were installed in 1986 to replace a set of wooden gates built after World War 1. The weir was constructed to reshape and control flood spill.
4. In the 1970s, as part of a multi-phase project in the wider Mataura Catchment, Council purchased land in the Titiroa Catchment for flood protection and leased it back to the farmers. The leases allowed for continued farming and areas of bush and wetland to be maintained by Council for conservation.
5. Council required lessees to improve the land and also undertook works itself, including the installation of tile and mole drains and the installation of flap gates for drainage. The leases provide income for flood protection works and maintenance in the catchment, including for conservation. There are now seven leases and two blocks in private ownership.
6. The gates and weir contribute to the lowering of the water level upstream, providing drainage and tidal flood protection to farmland. The gates control the water table up to the railway embankment about 7km upstream and shown on Mr Connor's Appendix 1.
7. The gates also help to keep the water table high downstream, where there are areas of wetland. The structures are regarded as strategic infrastructure by Council.
8. I have also described the cut-off between the Titiroa Stream and Mataura River. The purpose of the cut-off is to reduce the water flowing down the Titiroa Stream floodway to reduce the water table level on the Titiroa Stream side.

Colin Young