

Resource Consent submission

To: The Chief Executive
Environment Southland
Private Bag 90116
DX20175
Invercargill

Date 31/08/2024 20:46
Online reference number RC240870147

Full name of submitter Carl McCrostie
Postal address Section 53
Contact phone number
Email

Applicant details

Name of applicant te-runanga-o-awarua-department-of-conservation-environment-southland
Activity location Waituna lagoon
Application number APP-20242456)

Submission details

My submission relates to the whole application Yes
Details of my submission I am strongly in opposition of the management regime proposed in this consent for the following reason. I see no comprehensive long-term hydrological management plan for the lagoon in this consent application based on the recommendation from the SAG 2017 study. This consent should account for the effects of hydrological (including openings) management on the following indicators

For now
& our future



of lagoon health:

- Water column nutrient concentrations
- Algal/cyanobacteria blooms
- Light limitation or other stressors on macrophytes, especially *Ruppia* spp.
- *Ruppia* life history and related requirements for completion of its life cycle
- Fringing wetland health
- Fish migration
- Waterfowl and wading birds (feeding and breeding habitats)
- Cultural values
- Recreational values

The 2017 SAG study highlighted some knowledge gaps with regard to understanding how water level management affects the health of the lagoon, they recommended further research on the effects of levels.

Has this research been completed as recommended by SAG 2017 and have the gaps in knowledge been filled on how water level management impacts on:

- Algal bloom events frequency
- the health of the fringing wetland
- nutrient cycling and, especially across the sediment-water interface,
- turbidity of the lagoon.

It doesn't appear to be included in the consent if this work has been carried out, instead it appears to me that the level is to be lifted, and we will see what happens and unfortunately it will be the health of the lagoon that will definitely suffer under this proposed consent as the recent algal bloom in 2024 has showed us.

No

No

Submission uploaded

I am a trade competitor of the applicant (for the purposes of section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991)

Outcome sought

I wish Environment Southland to make the following decision

To oppose the application.

Why I wish Environment Southland to make this decision

The health of the Lagoon and the surrounding Ramsar site is at the forefront of my opposition to this consent. There simply are too many unknown outcomes to proceed with this consent in its present form. The trigger level should be 2.2m for no more than 7 days this is key to maintaining this site in the condition that it has been since it was first opened in 1908.

For now
& our future



Hearing details

- I wish to be heard in support of my submission** Yes
- I would consider presenting a joint case if others make a similar submission** No
- I wish to be involved in any pre-hearing meeting that may be held for this application** Yes

Request for independent commissioner/s

I request pursuant to section 100A of the Resource Management Act 1991, that Environment Southland delegates its functions, powers, and duties to hear and decide the application to 1 or more hearings commissioners who are not members of Environment Southland

I understand I will be liable to meet or contribute to the costs of the hearings commissioner or commissioners

Confirmation

I have served a copy of my submission on the applicant and I confirm all of the above information is correct

For **now**
& **our future**

