

# Resource Consent submission

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

**Date**  
**Online reference number**

02/09/2024 14:19  
RC240902887

**Full name of submitter**  
**Postal address**  
**Contact phone number**  
**Email**

Brad McKenzie  
Section 53

## Applicant details

**Name of applicant**  
**Activity location**  
**Application number**

Oraka Farms Limited  
101 Kemp Road, RD 3, Wyndham 9893  
20242456

## Submission details

**My submission relates to the whole application**  
**Details of my submission**

Yes  
Directors of Oraka Farms disagree with this application and would like to put forward the following points/questions:

The ecology of the lagoon has adapted to low lagoon levels and regular openings over the last 120 years, by suddenly increasing the level that could cause large changes to the ecology that the area is renowned and received Ramsar status for.

For now  
& our future



Birdlife are being pushed further out such as geese onto farmland causing damage to pasture; on one farm there's usually around 7 blue herons this winter with the higher lagoon levels there are approximately 70

Reduced wading birdlife habitat, one of the reasons Waituna originally gained Ramsar status was for its birdlife so its an important value

Shading from tannins in the lagoon at the higher levels may limit light to the Ruppia affecting its growth  
Degradation of a Ramsar site

The lagoon margins will be pushed further out which will influence the vegetation ecology such as vegetation on lagoon edges dying from flooding i.e. it has adapted to the lower levels over the last 120 or so years, some of it may die out with higher lagoon levels and increase the nutrient loading with dying vegetation floating around in the lagoon

Property rights for land close to the lagoon whose economic value is affected

Erosion of tributary banks due to high water levels for a long time saturating them making them soft and easily eroded which increases sediment losses to the lagoon

The hydraulic effect on all of the surrounding land on subsurface drains and soil profiles

It is not just the incoming nutrients and sediment from farm land that is a concern for the lagoon - it's also the historical nutrients and sediments that are stored within it, which is why the lagoon must be flushed regularly to avoid algal blooms

Destruction/limited access to public property e.g. road and new bridge heading to the DOC look out/viewing platform and track, which is part of the Southern Scenic Route and a tourist attraction due to its Ramsar status

Will there be effects on the DOC walking track with higher lagoon levels?

What about the need for concessions/consents from DOC to access the lagoon to open it, this hasn't been mentioned and without this permission from DOC the lagoon cannot be opened

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There needs to be a short-term (5 year) consent to help understand the effects of the higher lagoon levels on the ecology of the area, local economy, cultural access to the area i.e. will the Te Wai Parera Trust be able to access their land and the uses they have planned for it, social access (local hunters and fishermen, tourists)

After the first 5 years of the consent how easy will it be to review and alter certain consent conditions

Will all 3 parties (DOC, ES, iwi) actually be able to agree?

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**

Directors of Oraka Farms disagree with this application and would like to put forward the following points/questions:

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## Hearing details

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**I wish to be heard in support of my submission** No  
**I wish to be involved in any pre-hearing meeting that may be held for this application** Yes

## Confirmation

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

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& **our future**

