

Resource Consent submission

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

Date 02/09/2024 21:01
Online reference number RC240903925

Full name of submitter Brendon Perriam
Postal address Section 53
Contact phone number
Email

Applicant details

Name of applicant Brendon Perriam
Activity location Waituna Lagoon
Application number APP-20242456

Submission details

My submission relates to the whole application Yes
Submission uploaded Submission regarding Waituna Lagoon opening.docx (334 kb)
I am a trade competitor of the applicant (for the purposes of section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991) No

Outcome sought

For now
& our future



I wish Environment Southland to make the following decision To oppose the application.
Why I wish Environment Southland to make this decision Environmental impacts to the lagoon health due to raised water levels.

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 No

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**



Submission regarding Waituna Lagoon opening

The Perriam family has been farming, hunting, and fishing, on the Waituna catchment for 120 years. We have a hut located on the edge of the Waituna lagoon, which our family has used and hunted out of for five generations, with Shayne Perriam still farming at the top of the Waituna catchment. On the lagoon we shoot three Islands, one of which has disappeared in the last 10 years but most recently has been affected with the high lagoon levels. We feel with the lagoon being held at 2.3m it has slowly killed off the island and also the northern edge of the lagoon we have hunted for over 100 years. We believe for going forward if you raise the lake levels even higher to 2.5m it will have a major effect to not just the islands but to the rest of the lagoon. With the lagoon not being opened regularly when it hits the levels of 2.2m and over it has taken away the channels that we know which supports the water flow and ecosystems of the lagoon. The natural bird life that occupies the lake when it is tidal seemed to have disappeared, which is a big part of the lagoons ecosystem, and was one of the reasons it is a Ramsar world heritage site. We believe that for the future health of the lagoon it should be let go at its original release height of 2.2m to be able to retain the natural water flow system and continue to have a growing ecosystem rather than a disappearing one.

It is recorded in 1857 Bishop Harper and his son were blocked from walking from Fortrose to Bluff as the lagoon was opened to the sea (Waghorn and Thompson, 1989). Which goes to show that the ecology of the lake has always been around an open lake. As history has shown that the lagoons recreational use has been determined by it being open rather than shut.

To help you understand more there are four figures below that show the difference between when the Waituna lagoon is full and empty. Therefore showing evidence how different height levels affect the lagoon. That with increased water levels there is a greater impact to the natural environment of the islands in the lagoon and the lagoons edges. That the increased water has limited the islands for permits to hunt on and reduced area for bird life to nest. With history and the evidence provided allows for the understanding of why we recommend the Waituna lagoon should be opened at 2.2m its original water level.

Regards
Brendon Perriam



Figure 1. Waituna lagoon closed 2018 and island visible at 1.4m.



Figure 2. Healthy island year 2000, Waituna lagoon level 1.5m



Figure 3. Waituna lagoon closed 2024 lake at 1.8m, island semi visible in comparison to 2018. Due to high lagoon levels.



Figure 4. Waituna lagoon edge 2022, island impacted to higher water levels in comparison to 2000.

References

R, Waghorn. R, Thomson. (1989). Kapuka South and Lake Waituna. Looking back. Kapuka South Jubilee committee. ISBN 0 473 00886 6