

SOUTHLAND CONSERVATION BOARD

TE ROOPU ATAWHAI O MURIHIKU

2 September 2024

Te Rūnaka o Awarua, Department of Conservation, Environment Southland
Resource Consent Application APP-20242456

Tena koe,

The Southland Conservation Board (the Board) would like to formally provide a submission on the above consent application (APP-20242456) regarding the periodic opening of the Waituna Lagoon.

The Board appreciated being involved in pre-application discussions with the applicants prior to lodgement. As expressed at that time, the Board supports the intention of the application to maintain and restore the ecological health and cultural values of the lagoon, and to transition to a more ecologically optimal opening regime over time. This management approach aligns well with the Murihiku Conservation Management Strategy Policy 2.8.2.

2.8.2 - Protect and enhance the Awarua wetland complex, including the Awarua Wetland of International Importance, the Waituna–Awarua Plains priority ecosystem unit and the water quality of the Waituna Lagoon, by working with Ngāi Tahu, relevant agencies and the community, including landowners and businesses.

We also note a strong alignment with three of the Board's Guiding Principles:

Principle of Preservation and Protection

Decisions of the Southland Conservation Board shall be based on the principle of the preservation and protection of the conservation estate and all its natural and historic resources. Activities on the conservation estate, and any effects on its whenua and its indigenous flora and fauna, shall be considered in the context of this principle.

Principle of Advocacy

The Southland Conservation Board shall use its voice to advocate for the mauri / integrity and wellbeing of the natural environment of Aotearoa New Zealand including, but not limited to, her land, waters, ecosystems and biodiversity.

Principle of Treaty Partnership

The Southland Conservation Board strives to honour its Treaty partnership with Ngāi Tahu in so doing, the Southland Conservation Board shall have particular regard to the voice of Ngāi Tahu papatipu runaka ki Murihiku in the decision-making process.

The Board is satisfied that the activity being applied for has been carefully considered by those with suitable technical expertise and understanding, across each of the joint applicants. With Awarua Rūnaka as a joint applicant, the Board is also comfortable that cultural interests have been incorporated at the forefront.

Serviced by the Department of Conservation

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The Board provides this submission in support of the application in favour of it being granted.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Shona Sangster', written over a faint dotted line.

Shona Sangster

Board Chair