

Submission on resource consent application

Online reference number: CA200402965
Completed on: 09 Apr 2020

Submitter's details

Full name or company name of submitter Murray Dobbin
Contact Name Murray Dobbin
Email Opo_dobbin@xtra.co.nz
Contact phone number 0211634486
Postal Address: PO Box 88, Opunake 4645
Street address of property affected (if different to the address above) NA

The Council will serve all formal documents electronically via the email address provided above.

Application to which submission relates

Name of applicant Steve O'Sullivan
Proposal (activity type and location) Opunake Power Limited,
Application to divert water from the Waiaua River into Opunake Lake for power generation.
TRC Consent number/s 1795.50, 1796.40, 1797.40, 4563.30, 4744.30, 5581.20, 5692.20
I am a trade competitor for the purposes of [section 308B](#) of the Resource Management Act 1991 No

The specific parts of the application this submission relates to are:

My submission relates to the whole application No, my submission only relates to parts of the application
Please detail the parts of the application your submission relates to Removal of water from the Waiaua river

Submission details

Please provide details of your submission. If your submission is in a document, you can upload the document below.

I wish to oppose the consent application by Opunake Power to divert water from the Waiaua river into the Opunake lake for power generation. My application relates to the application to allow only 180 litres of water per second to flow into the river system below the weir (dam) located near S.H.45. Having observed the lower 2km of the Waiaua river for over 60 years from times of no residual flow, the 100 litres flow, the 180 litres of flow and since June 2018 of the full flow. This stretch of the river system now appears to be an alive, vibrant and fully functioning river. From these observations I would conclude that 180l per second is inadequate to sustain a system which is naturally functioning at around 1200litres per second flow. However to my knowledge there is no data or study on the lower Waiaua river that has been undertaken during the last

20months of full flow. There is no baseline to measure future patterns of native fish and plant life against. I would request that before any water is diverted into the power scheme that such a study be undertaken. This is the longest time since 1923 that a full flow has been in this part of the river so it is an opportunity not to be missed.

Native fish passage - Despite the efforts of various "fish ladders" any passage of native fish up stream beyond the weir seems to be by good luck. I have never seen an inanga either in the water or inside a fish caught above the weir(dam). This suggests that the life cycle of most native fish is restricted to the lower 2km of river. Water temperature especially in summer during the period of global warming and the provision of a safe habitat from all types of predators (I include fishies and poachers in this) and the provision of breeding areas as well as a clean food supply are dependent on an adequate continuous flow of clean water if these species are to be maintained at sustainable levels.

The mouth of the Waiaua river- Where the river and the sea meet is a vital link in the life cycles and natural processes. With adequate flows these natural processes relate to all forms of life cycles, alluvial and coastal processes fail to operate at acceptable levels and rates. As part of any study these factors at the river mouth and surrounding coastal zones should be taken into account. An interesting observation re white baiting from the consent application " the tail race block" can hold 2 or 3 white baiters, the mouth of the river can hold as many as turn up.

The river and surrounding environment - The river bed below SH45 is in many places very difficult to access and so has remained in an almost natural stream bed state. There is a real opportunity especially below Park Place to create with native planting an ecosystem of real value to all in the long term. I would ask that such a planting be considered as part of this consent.

Position-

1. That as much water as possible is retained for the flow of the Waiaua river below the weir(dam) at SH45.
2. That a major study be undertaken of the river system while still at full flow in order to give a baseline of the effects of water flow reduction.
3. That the effects of reduction of water flow at the river mouth be taken into consideration.
4. That developing the ecosystem below SH45 with managed vegetation be considered.
5. That developing a Management document with interested parties be developed to provide guidance and understanding of the needs of this significant area.

NA

Upload submission details here

Outcome sought

I seek the following decision from the Council

To refuse consent

If consent is granted, the conditions I seek are

NA

You can upload a document containing the conditions you seek here

NA

Attendance and wish to be heard at consent hearing

I/we wish to be heard in support of my/our submission No

By answering no, you will not be advised of the date of any consent hearing and cannot speak at any hearing. However, you will still retain your right to appeal any decision made by the Council.

Request for independent commissioner/s

Pursuant to section 100A of the Resource Management Act 1991, I request that the Taranaki Regional Council delegates its functions, powers, and duties required to hear and decide the application to one or more hearing commissioners who are not Taranaki Regional Councillors. NA

Note: Such a request may be made (in writing) up to 5 working days after close of submissions. If you do make a request under section 100A of the Resource Management Act 1991, you will be liable to meet or contribute to the costs of the hearings commissioner or commissioners.

Provision of submission to applicant

The Resource Management Act 1991 requires you to send a copy of the submission to the applicant.

Would you like the Applicant to be automatically sent a copy of this submission via email? Yes

Please enter the applicant's email address here

Authorisation

By selecting this checkbox, you are confirming you are the person making submission, or person authorised on behalf of person making submission. Yes

Date

Council Use Only

Action	Signature	Date
Database updated by		
Document number		