

Irrigation Hearing

Today I want to give my endorsement to the efforts of the Lindis Catchment Group. They represent the water users on the Lindis River of which we are a part.

I also want to give a brief resume of the property we own, explaining some of the features of the property which overall support the water use from the river.

The Lindis Catchment Group are recommending a minimum flow of 450 litres per second. We endorse this view. If that figure goes any higher it will make irrigation from the river unreliable and put farmer against farmer.

The Lindis Catchment Group are recommending a primary allocation of 1900 litres per second. We also endorse this view.

The minimum flow of 450 litres per second and the primary allocation of 1900 litres per second are linked. As a water user, any scheme needs to have a reliable water supply to justify the considerable capital expenditure that is required to construct an efficient irrigation scheme on the property.

There will be considerable expense and time required to get our water allocation consented and up and running and Council needs to ensure that the consent replacement process is efficient and streamlined.

Specifically in relation to our property at Pukemara Tarras, I comment as follows:

1. The property has a total land area of 701 hectares of which a total of 580 hectares could be irrigated by way of pivot, static or K-line. The property boundaries the Lindis River.
2. We currently have water allocation of 19.8 litres per second from Lindis Irrigation Company. We consider this allocation vital to our business.
3. The Mackay irrigation race currently delivers water to the property. This is to be decommissioned. We therefore need to apply for a new point of take against the Lindis River boundary. We need an extension of time to allow for changes to occur.
4. The property has very good natural storage options. We want to apply for winter water to fill water storage out of season. We will require water for 12 months of the year.
5. Our household bore is a shallow bore on the edge of our property. This is very much dependent on the hydrology of the area. Summer water is very reliable but winter water is not. In spring it is a waiting game for the bore to yield. This water may be affected by the closing of the Mackay race and the requirement for efficient use of water. This is one of the unknown consequences of the proposed new water allocation. We may need to source a new domestic water supply from the Lindis River allocation.

In summary, I would like to mention that I am a keen fly-fisherman and like to fish the Lindis River from time to time. I have always found the river to have a healthy supply of fish. I recently fished the Mataura River at Fairlight and was interested to see that the river had run underground. I was informed by a local that the river can run dry at any time of the

year at times of low precipitation. This fishery is renowned as one of the healthiest fisheries in New Zealand and is obviously not affected by running underground from time to time.

Michael Hayman

31 March 2016