

From: Brian Turner [mailto:blturner@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2016 11:26 AM
To: Graye Shattky
Subject: ORC hearings: Lindis

Message from Brian Turner:

In my absence I authorise Graye Shattky to deliver this statement on my behalf to the ORC hearing in Tarras:

'In my view there's a need - and it's urgent - for all of us to widen our horizons and, throughout our region, give greater, proper consideration to and protection of natural values. Our health, and that of natural systems requires that we encourage and protect as much diversity as possible. We must take all possible steps to stop the environmental deterioration that's continuing to occur on and in our lands and waterways. So-called 'minimum flows' in all waterways ought to be generous, not stingy. One of the most admirable things we could do is stop sanctioning activities that are destructive of natural values. This, for a long time, has been the case with the Lindis River - sections bone dry or a mere trickle.

'It's time we acknowledged that a lot of what's done in the name of 'progress' results in environmental degradation and the diminishment of natural values and recreational opportunities. In other words, it's not progress at all. I'd term it misguided and often irresponsible. When we attempt to measure what's 'good for the economy' we have to take account of natural values and the environmental health overall. Gross National Product (GNP) is not, and never has been, a reliable and proper measurement of the value of human activities. Yes, we have rights but we also have responsibilities, not just towards others but towards nature itself. Humankind continues to fail in that regard. In this respect, Regional and district councils generally continue to give insufficient regard to the truths inherent in what environmental and recreational groups are saying. The Canadian writer Margaret Atwood put it succinctly when she said, of human activity generally, 'we're using up nature's capital too fast' and 'Nature bats last.'

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