

In 1995 when we bought our property near the mouth of the Lindis River we would take our three young daughters swimming and paddling in the river. As the level of irrigation increased the river disappeared and became a dry, stony bed for the entire summer.

This amenity we had so valued, was taken from us.

In 2021 the historic mining privileges will expire. I have been waiting patiently these 21 years in the expectation that the river will once again flow and I will be able to take my grandchildren to swim and paddle in the Lindis River.

However, I'm not happy to read, that 750 l/s will result in 'some risk to in-stream values, downstream from the SH8 bridge' and also 'no suitable trout habitat downstream from SH8 bridge'.

- The ORC has suggested a minimum flow of 900l/s (October to May) would achieve the outcome of 'no risk to the ecosystem downstream from SH8 bridge'.

The objectives and spirit of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management strongly supports the health of rivers and sustainably managing fresh water.

750l/s is a weak option. It's neither one thing nor the other. It pleases no-one. We'll have a river that is healthy at one end and sick at the other.

The Tarras Community Plan 2007 states that we value our environment with its distinctive landscape, mountain ranges, rivers and streams. We value the recreational opportunities and facilities in the area. Should any of these values be lost or degraded, the area will no longer be a 'special place'.

- A dry Lindis river bed degrades what we value and threatens our special place.

The Community Plan also places considerable emphasis on the importance of water to the area. Urgent priority was given to the development of an irrigation scheme, Tarras Water Ltd, to take water from the Clutha River. Although TWL did not proceed the intention was clear, to take water from the Clutha, a reliable and sustainable source. I emphasis, from the Clutha, not from the Lindis River.

Many Tarras farmers, who had relied on Lindis River water, have built irrigation schemes to take water from other sources, primarily the Clutha and the Bendigo aquifer. Of course, this requires significant investment, but these

newspaper articles with their headings "IRRIGATION HAS FUTURE PROOFED FOUR TARRAS PROPERTIES and PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE would suggest the investment was worth it!

Investment in irrigation schemes from other sources such as the Clutha is an option for the Lindis irrigators. Unfortunately the Lindis River water is the cheap option for those not wanting to invest.

The income of two thirds of the households in Tarras is made from means other than farming, and not all farmers use Lindis River water for irrigation. An increasing number now take irrigation water from the Clutha River and Bendigo aquifer, and some farms are traditional dry-land pastoral farms.

○ It would be fair to say that it's a small number of our community who extract high volumes of water from the Lindis.

It would be wrong to assume that the Tarras community and the Lindis irrigators hold the same views.

Tourists love New Zealand for its natural beauty.

We still have what they have lost.

But that's not true, is it. I've lost the Lindis River every summer for 21 years.

It's not there for my family, for the Tarras community, for New Zealanders, for tourists.

○ In 21 years our thinking has changed, it is no longer okay to degrade our rivers.

The amenity and economic value of a healthy, continual flowing river is priceless.

This is our last chance to make a difference, to do the right thing for the future.

750 l/s is not good enough^{if}, it puts the lower Lindis River at risk.

900 to 1000l/s will return what we have lost.