
Form 13: Submission on application concerning resource consent**Resource Management Act 1991**

To: Otago Regional Council

Name of submitter: Director-General of Conservation (the Director-General)

This is a submission on applications from Queenstown Lakes District Council (the **Applicant**) for two related resource consents.

Description of activity: Application No. RM25.206: To discharge treated wastewater to the Shotover River/Kimiākau from the Shotover Wastewater Treatment Plant, to disturb the bed of the river for the purpose of installing a riprap outfall structure and to discharge contaminants into air associated with the discharge of treated wastewater.

Application No. RM25.177: To divert the Shotover River/Kimiākau to ensure the discharge is always going into running water, to disturb the bed of the river to create and maintain a diversion channel and a discharge consent for remobilising sediment from the river when creating the channel.

Trade competition: I am not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991.

My submission relates to: The whole application.

My submission is: I am neutral on the application.

The Director-General's interest in the Application

1. The Director-General of Conservation (the **Director-General**) has all the powers reasonably necessary to enable the Department of Conservation (**DOC**) to perform its functions.¹ The Conservation Act 1987 (the **CA**) sets out DOC's functions which include (amongst other things) management of land and natural and historic resources for conservation purposes, preservation so far as is practicable of all indigenous freshwater fisheries, protection of recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats and advocacy for the conservation of natural resources and historic heritage.² Section 2 of the CA defines 'conservation' to mean *'the preservation and protection of natural and historic resources for the purpose of maintaining their intrinsic values, providing for their appreciation and recreational enjoyment by the public, and safeguarding the options of future generation'*.
2. DOC administers a conservation area adjacent to the Shotover River/ Kimiākau where this activity is proposed. DOC is currently processing an application for a concession over the conservation area.

Reasons for the Director-General's submission

3. The area of the bed of the Shotover River/ Kimiākau that would be disturbed by the proposed works may provide habitat for Threatened or At-Risk migratory nesting species, including terns, gulls and waders.
4. It is important that appropriate conditions are put in place to minimise the risk of disturbance to birds during the breeding and egg-laying period for braided river bird species. The Department supports the conditions proposed by the Applicant in section 5.3 of the Assessment of Environmental Effects for application RM25.177.³ The Department appreciates the opportunity for comment on these conditions, and the wider Application, that was provided prior to notification.
5. With respect to effects from the discharge of wastewater to the river, it is noted that the Water Conservation (Kawarau) Order 1997 (WCO), applies to the Shotover River/ Kimiākau. Schedule 2 of this order requires that water quality be managed to Class CR standard (i.e.

¹ Refer section 53 Conservation Act 1987

² Conservation Act 1987, section 6.

³ [rm25177-queenstown-lakes-district-council-application.pdf](#)

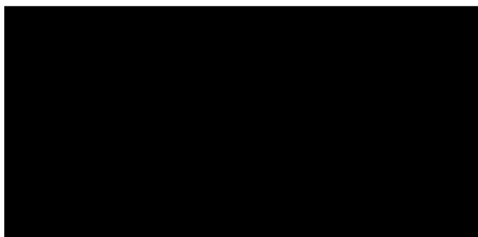
must be managed for 'contact recreation' purposes, which includes requirements that the water must be suitable for swimming).

6. The Application acknowledges that any discharge of wastewater to water will have adverse cultural effects. The notification report cites a Short Form Cultural Impact Assessment from TAMI on behalf of Nga Rūnanga ki Murihiku, which notes that the Applicant is working closely with TAMI and other experts to work through the complexities of the application and subsequent short-term solution, as well as the future long-term solution. A Cultural Position Statement endorsed by Aukaha Ltd Wai Māori representatives is also cited. This notes that the direct discharge of human waste to natural water, almost regardless of the extent of treatment, is considered abhorrent by mana whenua, and that treatment through natural processes in the land is the preferred option.

Decision sought

7. In relation to the disturbance of the riverbed, I seek that suitable conditions are imposed on these consents to minimise the risk of disturbance to nesting birds during the breeding and egg-laying period for braided river bird species.
8. In relation to the discharge of wastewater to the river, I seek that:
 - the requirements of the Water Conservation (Kawarau) Order 1997 are met, and
 - the Applicant works with TAMI and Aukaha to minimise adverse cultural effects.

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission.



David Butt

Operations Manager Whakatipu

Southern South Island Region

Acting pursuant to delegated authority on behalf of the Director-General of Conservation.

Date: 3 November 2025

Note: A copy of the Instrument of Delegation may be inspected at the Director-General's office at Conservation House Whare Kaupapa Atawhai, 18/32 Manners Street, Wellington 6011.

Address for service:

