

HURUNUI DISTRICT COUNCIL

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29 April 2024

To Whom it May Concern

RE: INCLUSION OF LAKE SUMNER DISCHARGE CONTROL IN FAST TRACK APPROVALS BILL

We write in support of the proposal to include the control of discharge from Lake Sumner to the Hurunui River under Schedule 2 of the Fast Track Approvals Bill. The two major alpine rivers (Hurunui and Waiau Uwha) in the Hurunui District play a significant role in the environmental and economic wellbeing of the district.

The Hurunui District Council has consented water takes for drinking and stock water on the Hurunui River feeding the Waikari Basin and Hurunui Number 1 water schemes. These water schemes provide vital water to approximately 800 properties. Over that last two years Council has spent over s 9(2)(b)(ii) ensuring these water schemes are fully compliant with the NZ Drinking Water Standards. Low flows on the Hurunui River impact on the river environment and consented water takes and therefore the concept of controlling the river flow to allow summer recharge of the Hurunui River from Lake Sumner is particularly appealing.

Agriculture makes up about 45% of the GDP and accounts for almost 60% of the jobs in the Hurunui district. A resilient water supply is key to unlocking further agricultural potential, particularly as the impacts of climate change potentially result in lower summertime flows.

Likewise controlling discharge from the lake has positive environmental benefits, ensuring river health by maintaining better than minimum flows in the summer and controlling some of the more damaging impacts experienced in heavier winter rainfalls.

For these reasons we support the proposal above.

Yours faithfully,

Marie Black
Mayor

Hamish Dobbie
Chief Executive Officer