

[Redacted]

From: Otago Regional Council <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Monday, 13 April 2020 7:15 pm
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Anonymous User completed Submission Form – Proposed Water Permits Plan Change (Plan Change 7) to the Regional Plan: Water

Anonymous User just submitted the survey 'Submission Form – Proposed Water Permits Plan Change (Plan Change 7) to the Regional Plan: Water' with the responses below.

Full name of submitter

Dr Michael Jennings

Name of organisation (if applicable)

Private

Email

[Redacted]

Postal Address (or alternative method of contact)

[Redacted]

Phone number

[Redacted]

Do you wish to be heard in support of your submission?

(Being 'heard' means speaking at a hearing)

No

Could you gain an advantage in trade competition from this submission?

No

Are you directly affected by an effect of the plan change that:

- a) adversely affects the environment; and
- b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition

I am

State what your submission relates to and if you support, oppose, or want it amended:

(e.g. support rule 'x', or amend policy 'y')

It annoys me.

State what decision you want the Otago Regional Council to make:

(e.g. amend policy 'y' to say....)

Strike it down, and re-write it.

Give reasons for the decision you want made:

(e.g. I want policy 'y' changed because...)

Introduction The proposed policy change by the ORC raises a number of questions for recreational users and claim holders. As mining is a tradition in New Zealand, all communities as a whole share and appreciate this cultural endeavor on many levels. Such proposed resource consent change requires further investigation. In the light of examination, the ORC has a very public track record of near illogical vendettas against rate payers whom it views as going against its authority, or abrogating its social justice environmental ethos perspective. There are many good examples of these. Given such behaviour - is it even reasonable to assume that the ORC won't abuse its power in the future? One should expect it to do so, at significant cost to the ratepayers. Policy versus Reality Having mined in a recreational capacity for over 35 years, it has been an observation that most miners are meticulous with regard to their equipment, and also any stream sedimentation which they produce. Given the natural floods, and their large sediment carrying capacity, disturbances from mining pails into insignificant in comparison from this natural process. As for protected species waterways, it should be pointed out the invasion of *D. geminata*, and its spread by water fowl, has made many of these habitats uninhabitable. Furthermore, its eutrophication growth in the summer in combination with algae and bacterial loadings, make many of these streams deadly to livestock and aquatic species alike, as such presenting an extreme danger to the mining community. Such information would shock the general public, if it became known. It should be noted that for suction dredging activities, a small engine uptakes filtered water, pressurises it, where it is used to operate a venturi, allowing for the extraction of heavy metals, through centrifugal concentration of densities, whereupon the less dense materials, in fluid suspension are returned to the stream. This is by definition low impact mining, and in many cases enhances the seasonal flow of materials, through the clearance of boulders, and allows enhancement of stream bed quality. The actual present numbers of suction dredges operating in Otago, on licensed claims is in fact very minimal. Recommendations The ORC has had to date, a moderately good working relationship with the mining community. Firstly for the record, the mining community would be extremely interested to know whom within the ORC included these proposed draft changes? -The water is never taken from the river or stream. -Given the state of many waterways used for mining activities, the process of dredging actually improves stream beds and water quality. -Since mining is a hobby, such fiscal restraints of applications for resource consent are outside the fiscal reach of most claim holders. It may be noted, that the administrative costs of such a policy will cost more, than the revenue it returns, representing a loss to the ratepayer, especially when challenged. -Any changes to the present activities of the mining community should be struck down. Mining has traditionally provided vital support to many families in times of need, and is an accepted cultural practice which has nil negative impacts on the environment. Summary The mining community would like to maintain a good working relationship with the ORC, however it must also protect its rights, and also for future generations in New Zealand. As such, I would recommend that the ORC remove this draft and rewrite it appropriately. Yours, Mike Dr Michael Jennings

Please attach any additional information.