

SUBMISSION ON THE PROPOSED REGIONAL LAND AND WATER PLAN

UNDER CLAUSE 6 OF THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

Please note that submissions are required to be received by the West Coast Regional Council no later than **5.00 pm, Friday 15 October 2010.**

To: Chief Executive Officer
West Coast Regional Council
PO Box 66
GREYMOUTH 8470
Ph (03) 768 0466
Fax (03) 768 7133 or scan and email to info@wcrc.govt.nz

Submission On: Proposed Regional Land and Water Plan

Name: Douglas Alexander Rankin

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1. The specific provisions of the Proposed Plan that my submission relates to are as follows:

Kayaking/canoeing/rafting/river bugging values of rivers on the West Coast
Hydro power generation

2. My submission is that:

I SUPPORT the general identified protection measures for Lake Brunner and for maintaining or improving water quality. However, I have concerns that the approaches to maintain and/or improve water quality in rivers on the West Coast will not be sufficient to protect in stream habitats in rivers or streams where farming is occurring and will over time lead to further degradation of such freshwater habitats. Given the importance of tourism to our and the West Coast economy and New Zealand's 'clean green' image it is imperative that techniques other than flushing farm runoff out to sea should be mandatory (eg, planting of riparian vegetation, no stock in stream or river beds) to keep all reaches of our rivers and streams and our lowland rivers in a viable and healthy and ecologically sound state, and so prevent the degradation that has happened in Canterbury on the East Coast rivers.

I OPPOSE any hydro development on rivers with catchments over 50ha being allowed to go ahead without notifying the public. I OPPOSE "national or local interest" being sufficient mitigation on its own.

I SUGGEST that more use is made of available relevant data relating to river use. The plan is silent on the widespread use of West Coast rivers by whitewater recreation users (such as rafters, kayakers, canoeists, river buggers), one of the significant human use dimensions. I think this is an appalling and selective omission. Values of significance to Maori are listed, so should those of value to other community members, to give a true flavor for the natural attributes and human use dimensions of the region. It may be that much of the whitewater resource is surrounded by DOC land and so doesn't come under the jurisdiction of the West Coast Regional Council, and therefore the Regional Land and Water Plan, but the lower reaches of many rivers will come under such jurisdiction. Thus, giving a clear overview of all the human use dimensions and values is, I think, valuable and appropriate, especially in the overview of the plan. For example, hydroelectric development could have a very negative impact on whitewater values for river users, and although rules for hydroelectric development are included in the plan no mention is made of some of the human values they could impact on.

3. I seek the following decision from the West Coast Regional Council:

That whitewater kayaking/canoeing/rafting is added as a significant water-based human activity for the West Coast along with a suitable data base for inclusion in Schedule 5 provided by Whitewater New Zealand.

That hydro generation on any river with catchment over 50ha is publicly notified.

That 'regional or national interest' as sole mitigation for hydro generation is removed from the Plan.

That the Plan uses more available data on recreational river use and values.

4. I do wish to be heard in support of my submission.

5. If others make a similar submission I would be prepared to consider presenting a joint case with them at any hearing.

D A Rankin

*[Signature of person making submission or
person authorised to sign on behalf of person
making submission]*

15 October 2010

[Date]

Title and Address for Service of
person making submission:

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