



Whitewater Canoe Club (Inc), PO Box 4476, Christchurch

Press Release 22 July 2009 – Hurunui River

The Whitewater Canoe Club in Christchurch is the largest member club of Whitewater New Zealand and is active in river conservation issues through out the country. Today it received notice of a proposal to build two dams on the Hurunui River to store up to 189 million tonnes of water.

The following statement is to be attributed to Robin Rutter-Baumann, President of the Whitewater Canoe Club:

The Whitewater Canoe Club is saddened by the actions of the Hurunui Water Project Limited who have applied for consents to dam both main branches of the Hurunui River and use its water for farm irrigation and hydro generation.

The two dam proposal will destroy the natural river flows of the Hurunui, which is one of the few Wild Rivers left in Canterbury. Wild rivers should not be sources of hydro power, a dam placed on such a river destroys the environment forever. Calling this renewable power generation is false marketing. New Zealand's remaining wild rivers must be protected for future generations as national treasures. Wild rivers need the same protection as National Parks which is why a Water Conservation Order has been sought to protect the Hurunui and a decision from the Tribunal is expected soon.

Kiwis are passionate about wild rivers, which are central to our national identity and international reputation. The Hurunui River is one of a kind and so highly prized by fishermen and kayakers that the Water Conservation Order hearings held earlier this year attracted hundreds of submissions. We are alarmed that ECAN have allowed HWP to make their application thus circumventing the Water Conservation Order process. The Whitewater Canoe Club urges all river enthusiasts to make submissions opposing the dams proposed for the Hurunui.

For more information contact Robin Rutter-Baumann via president@whitewater.org.nz or 027 2096101