



Whitewater NZ works to protect and conserve rivers, improve opportunities for kayakers to enjoy our whitewater resources safely, and protect public access to rivers for recreational use. We are the primary advocate for the preservation and protection of whitewater resources throughout New Zealand. Today we received notice of a proposal to build two dams on the Hurunui River to store up to 189 million tonnes of water.

The statement below is from Whitewater NZ President Polly Miller

The Hurunui Water Project Limited application for consents to dam both main branches of the Hurunui River and use its water for farm irrigation and hydro generation will ruin an outstanding recreational resource.

The two dam proposal will destroy the natural river flows of the Hurunui River, one of the few wild rivers left in Canterbury. A wild river is a river system that has all, or almost all, of its natural values intact. The perception that hydro generation is renewable energy is false – a dam will destroy the natural characteristics of the Hurunui River forever. New Zealand's few remaining wild rivers must be protected for future generations as national treasures.

The Hurunui River is so important that Fish & Game and Whitewater NZ (previously the New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association) have applied for a Water Conservation Order to protect the river. The outstanding recreational amenity – whether for fishing or kayaking – was the subject of hundreds of submissions heard in Christchurch earlier this year.

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