

**BEFORE THE SPECIAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE NGARURORO AND CLIVE RIVERS
WATER CONSERVATION ORDER
AT NAPIER**

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991
(the Act)

IN THE MATTER of a Special Tribunal appointed under
s202 of the Act to consider an application
for a Water Conservation Order made by
New Zealand Fish and Game Council, the
Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council,
Ngāti Hori ki Kohupatiki, Whitewater New
Zealand, Jet Boating New Zealand, and
the Royal Forest and Bird Protection
Society of New Zealand (the Applicants)
in relation to the Water Conservation
Order

The Special Tribunal Richard Fowler QC (Chair)
Alec Neill
Dr Roger Maaka
Dr Ngaire Phillips
John McCliskie

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF MIKE CONNOR
FOR HORTICULTURE NEW ZEALAND**

25 January 2019



ATKINS | HOLM | MAJUREY

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INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Mike Connor. I grew up and have lived most of my life on a farm adjacent to the Ngaruroro River ("the River"). Our farm boundary's the River for about 3 kilometres on the North side, about opposite the confluence of the Mangatahi Stream. From my house I can hear nearly all boats that go up the River (all jetski powered boats and all V8's) so get a good idea of how many boats are on the River.
2. I mainly boat from the farm to the Whanawhana Cable. I also do a few trips per year to the Junction of the Taruarau and the Ngaruroro rivers and occasionally downstream to Clive.
3. I have been Jetboating this River since the 1970's, originally in a Fibreglass Hamiton "Jet 32" on family trips and more recently in my own boat.
4. As a child we would go boating on weekends, or if we had visitors, during the warmer months around October to April. This would be on average once per month depending on weather and suitable river flows.
5. Currently I use the River more (mainly on weekends) and would count myself as a high user relative to the average local Jetboater.

JETBOATING ON THE RIVER

6. During winter (June to August), I would go up once per month. Apart from the "Shortest Day" run which is very busy (on average around 40-50 boats) I rarely see another boat on the River during winter.
7. Between October and December I go around twice per month. River flows are good and weather is improving at this time. After being "starved" of boating during winter, everyone (myself included) is keen to get out. I would usually see 1-3 other boats on the River. This is the best time of year to go upstream of the Whanawhana Cable as flows are strong with clear water and reasonable weather conditions.
8. From January to March my usage can vary (1-2 trips per month), with low flow (<5 cumecs at Fernhill) being an issue during this time. I have observed that other boats are rarely seen when the Fernhill flow rate drops below about 10 cumecs. This is due to very shallow shingle fans and dangerous tree obstacles near banks in the lower reaches (below

Maraekakaho stream confluence) and very shallow braids upstream from me, proving too challenging for most. I'd see 0–3 boats per outing.

9. Between April to May my usage varies with workload and weather. I'd average 1-2 trips per month during this period and see a similar number of boats when out.
10. The only other rivers I have boated are in the South Island (Canterbury, Otago, West Coast). While the Ngaruroro is a very good river and super handy for me, the South Island rivers are better. This is because the South Island rivers have bigger volume providing more options for the route taken, they are longer, more varied and have better scenery.
11. I'd say there are 5-10 High Use Jetboaters and 10-15 Low Use Jetboaters using the River. I estimate that total usage per year is about 200 trips with 2.5 people per boat, so about 500 people per year. I note from the report by Rob Greenaway that he estimates a number of around 900. I do not have an issue with this because my estimate is purely on the basis of personal experience where Mr Greenaway uses a different methodology. The numbers are still low in the overall scheme of things as I understand it.
12. There are way more Jetboats in Hawke's Bay but most of them do not get used at all or very infrequently (around 1-2 times per year).

Mike Connor

25 January 2019