



16 June 2014

S Gerard  
13 Cameron St  
Methven 7730

Dear Steve,

Councillors received email communication from you a few days before their scheduled Council meeting on 12 June, raising issues with Bowyers Stream river control works and the Deep Creek (Mt Potts) diversion.

There was considerable discussion at the Council meeting and while Council wished to thank you for bringing these issues forward it believed a much better outcome may have been achieved if you had been present to take part. Councillor Kevin Payne made a valiant effort to submit on your behalf and he has undertaken to report back to you on the results of the Bowyers Stream discussion.

Council requested that I reply to you in relation to the Deep Creek diversion.

Council acknowledges that Deep Creek supports an important trout fishery however as you have noted in correspondence to Councillors, the Council assigns higher priority to maintenance and enhancement of salmon spawning and rearing habitat in Deep Creek. This being the reason the Rangitata River has a Conservation Order for its outstanding recreational salmon fishery and why both Deep Stream and Deep Creek were closed to angling when Didymo first threatened invasion. Deep Creek consistently supports 70% of all Rangitata Catchment salmon spawning and any threat to salmon habitat in Deep Creek threatens the sustainability of the Rangitata salmon fishery.

Your concern at decline in trout "fishing" in the identified reach of Deep Creek is understood and accepted. Council believes mechanical restoration of flow to the true left braid as you have requested will increase downstream erosion as well as threatening fenced grazing. While impacts on fencing and grazing are not issues for F&G to consider they are of concern to the landowner. We foresee on-going erosion requiring river control and bank protection works. While increasing the flow in the true left braid will provide trout fishing habitat Council believes the threat to salmon spawning and rearing habitat in the reach and further downstream where 25% to 40% of salmon currently spawn outweighs the increase in water that is productive for trout fishing.

For as long as current F&G staff can remember and since at least 1992 Deep Creek has maintained two branches in the reach that you have concerns for. There is no indication that either branch is anything other than a natural channel and while it is acknowledged that the unconsented bank work undertaken a decade ago diverted more water into the true right braid than normal, the bank no longer exists and to reduce the flow would require an additional and substantial intervention in a natural system.

Since granting of the Conservation Order Council has continued to fund consented habitat protection and enhancement work on Deep Creek – a groyne 2 km upstream from Sunday Island to cut off a braid of the Rangitata that was flowing into Deep Creek, culverted stock and vehicle crossing over a mid

*Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats*

**Central South Island Region**

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reach tributary, provision of stock water and a fish screen to remove stock access adjacent to Sunday Island, rationalisation of vehicle crossings in the upper reaches, negotiation with the landowner over fencing and fence line placement, and we continue to seek a bridged crossing for stock and farm and tourism vehicles.

These works have provided benefits to habitat for all sports fish and ensured good relationships with current and past station owners. Fish and Game will continue such projects in the interests of all sports fish anglers.

Yours faithfully



Mark Webb  
Fish and Game Officer  
For Chief Executive