

# Resource Consent submission

ENVIRONMENT  
SOUTHLAND

12 JUL 2022

To: The Chief Executive  
Environment Southland  
Private Bag 90116  
DX20175  
Invercargill

**Date** 12/07/2022 20:07  
**Online reference number** RC220722678

**Full name of submitter** Annabelle Daisy Crack and Ken Darrin Crack  
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## Applicant details

**Name of applicant** Ewen Pirie on behalf of the Waituna Control Association  
**Activity location** Coastal bar between Waituna Lagoon and the Sea  
**Application number** APP-20211669

## Submission details

**My submission relates to the whole application** Yes  
**Submission uploaded** submission annabelle final.pdf (400 kb)  
**I am a trade competitor of the applicant (for the purposes of section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991)** No

## Outcome sought

For now  
& our future



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>I wish Environment Southland to make the following decision</b> | To support the application.   |
| <b>Why I wish Environment Southland to make this decision</b>      | Environment Southland should grant the consent in its entirety as per the application by Ewen Pirie on behalf of the Lake Waituna Control Assn. |

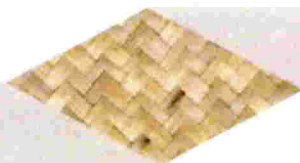
## Hearing details

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>I wish to be heard in support of my submission</b>   | Yes |
| <b>I would consider presenting a joint case if others make a similar submission</b>           | Yes |
| <b>I wish to be involved in any pre-hearing meeting that may be held for this application</b> | Yes |

## Confirmation

I have served a copy of my submission on the applicant and I confirm all of the above information is correct

For **now**  
& **our future**



Ken Crack (4<sup>th</sup> generation Farmer within the Waituna catchment) and Annabelle Crack (Farmer-Bachelor of Science in Zoology and of Ngai Tahu decent)

We are submitting in support of this application because if this application is not granted then we will be adversely affected.



Image: Waituna open at Walkers Bay

Ken and I are owners of land within the lower Waituna catchment, we are also active users of the lake for recreational purposes and have a great interest in the health of the lake.

We are in support of Ewen Pirie's consent application on behalf of the Lake Waituna Control Association (APP-20211669). If the consent isn't granted, we will be subjected to higher lake levels.

There are many consequences of the suggested higher lake levels as they degrade the value of the land to us and our neighbours throughout the catchment. Ken and I are expecting our first child in October and have high hopes that our next generation will take as much interest in farming in the catchment and enjoying the recreational benefits of being brought up here.

It creates a lot of stress and strain on our mental wellbeing when we (the locals) aren't given any thought about how this affects our economic futures for our families. Land has been purchased by the Southland Regional Council to counteract some flooding but they did not buy all land that is affected on a high and closed lagoon, hence decreasing the value of the land our family has worked hard for generations to turn into the productive farm it is today.

One major factor that contributes to the Lakes poorer health over the years has been increased erosion from high water levels, the banks become heavily saturated and fall into Moffat Creek, and other feeder creeks, which runs through the middle of our farm.

Higher levels cause more turbulence which sweeps the eroded soil straight down the creek into the lagoon making a sludgy mess at the mouth. A flood that occurred in September 2021 caused not only erosion but damage to a lot of our fencing from debris that floated downstream from the upper catchment.

Future flood events will mean fencing falling in and loss of our land and livestock. Other parties DOC Iwi and Environment Southland have not been fast enough to respond to the damage occurring even when they were invited to look, they had no interest at all in the case of DOC and Iwi, or arrived far too late (ES) to see the total impact of a non forecasted flood in the Catchment.





Moffat creak erosion and debris in September 2021 taken a day or two after unexpected rainfall event- notice water levels were above the lower part of the fence hence debris.

Instead, they still insist that holding the lagoon at a very high level is of best interest to the health of the Lake itself.

As avid recreational users my husband and I are ashamed to see bodies such as Fish and Game, DOC, Iwi and Forrest and Bird wanting the Lake shut as it contradicts a lot of what they stand for.

Granting the consent will ensure access for recreational fishing and the sustainability of the brown trout fishery and ensure recreational access for game bird hunting and sustainability of acclimatised game.

Opening the lake would enable Fish passage for many species important for the biodiversity of the lake. It is important to note the migration and recruitment of some indigenous and culturally significant species to Lake Waituna Tuna-Short and Long finned Eels, Galaxias spp. (some of which are in national decline).

Dabbling species (Mallard, Mallard grey hybrid and shoveller duck), waders (stilts, Oyster catchers etc) and in excess of 15 trans-equatorial mainly waders including the godwit which is a taonga species) will be subjected to major habitat loss at higher water levels. Lower levels provide better feeding habitats for the waders and dabbling species.



Image: Annabelle Crack at Walkers Bay, Waituna 2015

Ruppia species will be subjected to lack of light at higher water levels, sediment mix up from flood events via feeder creeks, algal blooms-formed with temperature increases and influx of nutrients during the hotter months. Testing carried out on Ruppia species by Environment Southland and NIWA is only done at certain times of the year which is pseudo replication and not appropriate nor accurate to base an entire ecosystems health on.

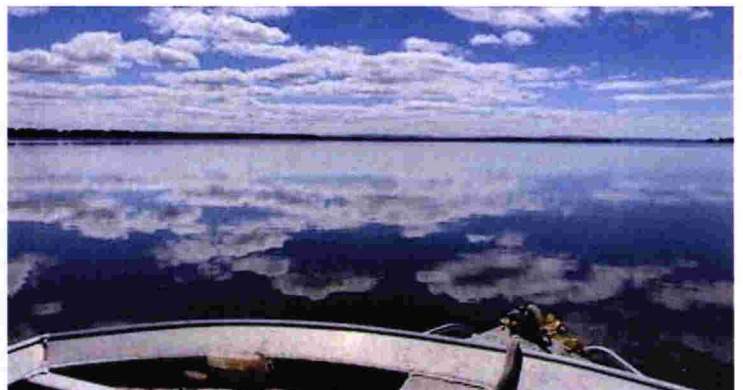
It is essential that the Lake is opened as it flushes the nutrients, algae and silt. It should not be used as a trial based off poor research and data gathering and contradictory parties' opinions. The damage would already have been too significant if held at a higher level - it is not worth the impacts we would suffer as landowners and recreational users.

We hope our voices are heard

Ken and Annabelle Crack



Image: high waters- Boat entrance at end of Moffat Road – usually can drive down to the bottom and back the boat in.



Images: A few snaps taken of the Lake over the years



Image: A major issue is Banks slumping in from feeder creeks Location; Moffat creek.