

# Resource Consent submission



To: The Chief Executive  
Environment Southland  
Private Bag 90116  
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Invercargill

<b>Date</b>	12/07/2022 16:50
<b>Online reference number</b>	RC220722368
<b>Full name of submitter</b>	Tony Reiger
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## Applicant details

<b>Name of applicant</b>	ewen pirie on behalf of Lake Waituna Control Assn
<b>Activity location</b>	Coastal bar between Waituna Lagoon and the sea.
<b>Application number</b>	APP-20211669

## Submission details

<b>My submission relates to the whole application</b>	Yes
<b>Submission uploaded</b>	pdf tony reiger submission.pdf (466 kb)
<b>I am a trade competitor of the applicant (for the purposes of section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991)</b>	No

## Outcome sought

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



**I wish Environment Southland to make the following decision** To support the application.

**Why I wish Environment Southland to make this decision** ES should grant the consent in its entirety as per the application by Ewen Pirie on behalf of the Lake Waituna Control Assn.  
Granting this consent would be in the best interests of the health of the lagoon and also the inhabitants of the Catchment.

## Hearing details

**I wish to be heard in support of my submission** Yes

**I would consider presenting a joint case if others make a similar submission** Yes

**I wish to be involved in any pre-hearing meeting that may be held for this application** Yes

## Confirmation

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

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



Submission from Dr Tony Reiger, **in support** of the application by Ewen Pirie on behalf of the Lake Waituna Control Association (LWCA).

I have researched and studied the history of Waituna Lagoon.

I know that it should be a lagoon, not a lake.

By not opening the lagoon regularly you are making it a lake and the biology of the whole ecosystem is changed and diversity is lost.

Fish and Game should be in favour of opening the lagoon, not opposed to it. They are funded by fishing and hunting licences so they should be promoting and looking after the fish species not limiting their access to the sea by opposing this consent application.

Really the lagoon should be kept open to the sea 24-7.

The Control Association is the right organisation to be holding the consent and opening the lagoon.

Even though they only open it as per their consent, it is better than not being opened at all.

If the lagoon is not opened, the water levels are higher and more erosion occurs, I have seen this on my property on Marshall Road.

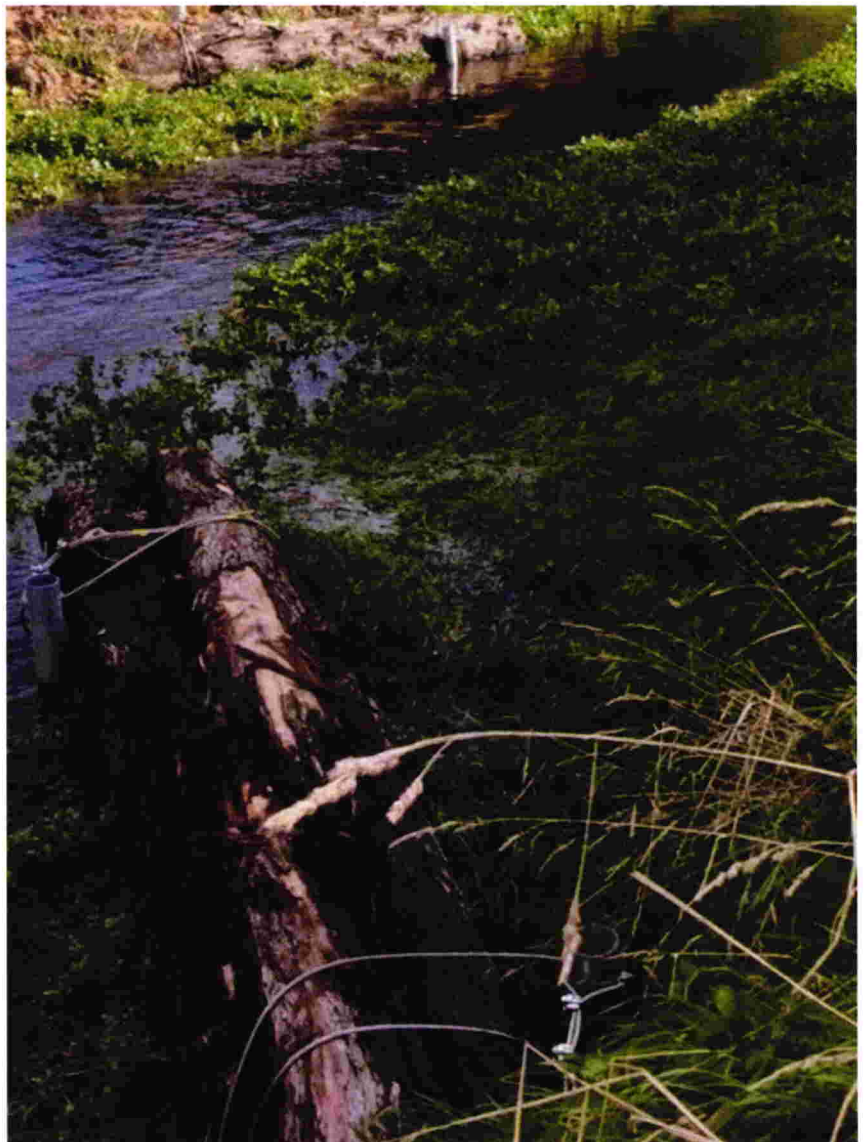
An increase in the amount of sediment is the last thing we need more of in the lagoon.

For generations Maori harvested the bounty from Waituna Lagoon, not Waituna Lake... If they truly want to restore the lagoon then they need to keep it open to the sea.

Putting logs into the bed and banks of the southern reaches of Waituna Creek makes no sense.... especially when the raw logs are punched in on the wrong angle.

They don't seem to want to use rock and yet here they are using exotic logs.

Rock would be far more effective and longer lasting.



This photo from March 2018.



Another photo of the lower reaches of Waituna Creek, from March 2018 showing debris caught on an obstructive exotic log

If they were to put some bigger rock in places then it would also act as shelter for the fish.

I don't understand why so many of the organisations who oppose this application want to keep the lagoon closed. It makes no sense.

I would encourage them to look in the dictionary and discern the difference between a lagoon and a lake.

**A lagoon is:** any small, pondlike body of water, especially one connected with a larger body of water.

Whereas,

**A lake is:** an area of shallow water separated from the sea by low sandy dunes or a body of fresh or salt water of considerable size, surrounded by land.

By insisting it stay closed they are seeking to modify Waituna Lagoon – the very thing they say they want to protect.

My PhD is in human behaviour, how ironic.



Photo above taken November 2021 showing erosion – was it as a result of the punched in log on the west side of the creek or the one on the east side?



And finally, photo showing more (new) erosion and one what's left of the logs

(photo taken 12 July 2022).

Also notice that the erosion is gone from the west side now – it left via a flood event.

Note: Many of logs that were punched into the bank in 2018 are now gone, down to the lagoon, washed away during a flood event and taking plenty of stream bank and sediment with them.

Again, more sediment into Waituna Lagoon. How much more will there be if the lagoon is turned into a lake and the level lifted?

I urge ES to grant this resource consent in its entirety as per the application.