

BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER ON BEHALF OF THE OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Consent No. RM18.004

Between the Applicant: Pioneer Energy Limited and the Consent Authority: Otago Regional Council

Speaking Notes from Kay Lenore Booth, 1 July 2022

Introduction

1. I have prepared evidence on recreation values and effects for this Hearing.
2. In my evidence I conclude that the most pertinent recreation effects are likely to be exacerbated access difficulties (foot and boat) and, potentially, increased risk of boat stranding.
3. I submitted my evidence before receipt of the peer review of the lake levels model¹, the s42A Officer's Report, evidence submitted by the Applicant from Mr Jack, Mr Nicolson and Mr Dungey, and evidence submitted by the Otago Fish and Game Council by Mr Couper. I have now read this material. The peer reviewed lake levels model alters my conclusions, and I wish to respond to Mr Nicolson's evidence.

Changes in response to the revised (peer reviewed) lake levels model

4. Applying a correction factor of 0.688 to the lake levels model has implications for the use of the two boat ramps. Here I rely on Ms Pritchard's summary of the differences between Scenario B and C in Table 6 of the s42A Officer's Report. She concludes that there is no change in how often the lake would be lower than 2.5m and 3.0m below crest – that is, nearly always for both Scenarios – with the implication that both ramps are not useable virtually all of the time under both Scenario B and C.
5. Therefore the proposal is likely to have little effect upon the level of boat activity on Lake Onslow. This alters my evidence at paragraph 75 (b) and (c) and paragraphs 96 – 98.
6. Consequent to this point, my conclusion at paragraph 86 of my evidence that displacement may result from a reduction in boat access – and, similarly, that a 'tipping point' may be reached (at paragraph 74 and 125 of my evidence) owing to decreased boat access – is no longer a relevant consideration for boat-based anglers. However, these points remain valid considerations for foot-based anglers.

¹ Teixeira, T. and Lobo Coutinho, L (2002). ORC Review – Pioneer Energy – RM 18.004. *Memorandum to Natasha Pritchard, Otago Regional Council dated 10 June 2022*. 18p.

7. I retain my other conclusions as they largely relate to the lake being lower for longer under Scenario C – which remains true under the revised model. This includes my comments on boat stranding (at paragraphs 99 – 101 of my evidence).
8. It would be helpful to know the proportion of angling activity that is undertaken by foot (compared to by boat) given potential effects appear to now centre around foot access. I have no information on this matter beyond personal communication from Teviot Angling Club members on the site visit that much of the angling activity is by boat.

Comments on the evidence of Mr William Nicolson

9. With respect to the evidence of Mr William Nicolson, I make the following comments in response to points he raises about my evidence (at paragraph 40 in his evidence):
 - a. Many of his points arise because of the gap in knowledge about recreation on Lake Onslow. Perhaps most pertinent is whether lower lake levels will increase or decrease navigational boating hazards. My statement that there is a higher risk of boat stranding at lower lake levels was based on personal communication with Teviot Angling Club members on the site visit. I have no other knowledge about this matter;
 - b. I remain concerned about the potential risk of boat stranding, irrespective of whether the drowning on Lake Onslow in 2009 occurred because of matters under consideration here; and
 - c. Mr Nicolson questions some of my statements or their source: my information was gathered solely from my review of publicly available recreation information, personal communications during the site visit, and the site visit notes (which were agreed by all parties).
10. I am happy to answer any questions.



Dr Kay Booth
1 July 2022