

Application for Resource Consent

Consent Application RM 22.434 Cold Gold Clutha Ltd.

Evidence of PM Benjamin for Penrith Holdings Ltd

I do not support the application.

My family and I are residents on the river edge of the Clutha. I feel strongly that as a resident of Otago and as a New Zealander I do not want the country plundered as it was historically in this area.

Clearly the introduction of machinery which will dig wherever it's possible into the base of the river is not good. It leads to disturbance of the sediment which will drift downstream muddying up the inlets, where visually fish can be seen including the areas they breed from. It's also a popular launching area for boats and water skis, the engines of which, do not react well to sediment in their inlets and motors. The operation is over long hours, 7 days a week. The mooring ropes are highly dangerous to the recreational users of the river and type of equipment described. Given the frequency of mooring ropes, these will cause severe danger to both river users and their equipment.

Once again given the extraordinary hours of operation the high noise content in an area of little background noise will be very disturbing, especially early morning and later in the day and evenings. The noise level quoted is acceptable in cities, but that's because of the high background noise already in place.

Others have described the vagaries of obsolete motors, the hydrocarbon pollution and the manufacturing of microplastics in the water as a direct result of the obsolete nature of the equipment.

There are marginal areas already of lagarosiphon weed on the edge of the Clutha where mining is proposed. Mining will result in the breaking up of these which in turn naturally will lead to the spread of this invasive weed. As you will be aware it covers huge areas of Dunstan Lake and causes large excluded areas for recreational activities. A huge negative.

Whilst the area is sparsely populated its used by a lot of people for recreational purposes. It's taken over 100 years to recover from the early mining days. The river is pure clean water, one of the few in left in New Zealand, and its being proposed to be wrecked it to profit someone in Dunedin. It does not meet the criteria for the greater good of our region, and therefore should be refused.

What I don't understand is why we want to wreck a pristine environment for something that the area we live in, does not and will not receive any economic benefit from.

If Consent is Provided, Conditions Precedent

If the decision allows the proposed activity then I suggest the following;

The dredge be required to install modern engines, that meet minimal leaking of hydrocarbon to the waterway. These in turn will no doubt be quieter, and noise limits should be set accordingly if that is the case.

Fuelling should be done from a fixed point so the dredge cannot move whilst it refuelled.

Hours of operation, no weekends and starting at a reasonable time of 7.30am and no later than 5pm. No operation at all over any holiday periods.

Proper hygiene facilities with a record of emptying to a hygiene facility.

As a society and community benefit all of the weed, lagarosiphon, above the Dunstan Delta be remove from the river edges.