

GORDON ROAD FLOODWAY CONSULTATION

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SUBMITTER DETAILS

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SUBMISSION

Firstly we would like to acknowledge and thank the Environment Court and Dunedin City Council (despite supporting the appeal in principle!) for consulting with landowners on this ORC appeal given the significant impact it will have on our lives and properties.

MY SUBMISSION SEEKS THE FOLLOWING DECISION FROM THE COUNCIL:

Do not apply the Hazard 1A (Flood) Overlay Zone to the whole floodway

REASONS FOR MY VIEWS

1. Our residence at 127 Dukes Road South is elevated and has not flooded in our 23 years of occupation nor the lifetime of its former occupant, John Ross, who was born in this house and is one of our neighbours. In 2002 we undertook a renovation and extension to existing dwelling, and we have had no issues with flooding. During all events listed in Jean-Luc's affidavit (#18) we can and have accessed our property by vehicle.

2. The hydraulic computational modelling based on the Australian Rainfall Runoff guidelines is used across multiple documents, as is the blue arrows flow diagram and the Australian hazard curves and ratings. **Actual data is omitted and lacking in favour of modelling and speculation. Where is the actual data - particularly pre April 2006?**

".. if we are to appraise substantial developments we must investigate long periods of time. Not the two or five years usually used, but as far back as figures exist ... insisting on long-term trends protects us against false arguments from back-ground noise and lone swallows" (Lomborg, 2012, p. 9) Statistician

- The area identified as the Gordon Road Floodway does not correlate to the modelling maps in neither flow map nor ratings map. They are not reflective of a flood event, nor do they take into account road levels nor drainage.
- There are dwellings inside the mapped floodway that are not impacted by spillway activation and dwellings outside the floodway that are.

3. Climate change is but one factor and who is to say it will not be heatwaves and drought! Factors omitted or overlooked include but are not limited to -

- The degradation of the Silverstream channel, due to no maintenance since construction (that we know of), if running at the intended 175 cumec would significantly reduce the occurrence of spillway activation that we currently experience at 115 cumec.
- The increasing storm water entering the Silverstream from new Mosgiel subdivisions north of the Spillway (farmland that previously provided saturation and surface flooding) now intensifying spillway activation events.
- Insufficient drain capacity at the Riccarton/Dukes Road intersection.


4. The 'existing use rights' which I understand means if a residence was unoccupied for 12 months, it fails to comply with plan rule and you lose your right to live there. The DCC must know in the event of disaster, be it flood, fire, or third party damage - to have plans drawn, sufficient to submit for consent (which could be lengthy dependent on volume), engage contractor/s able to start immediately and complete the build within 12 months is not realistic.

Further should a resident wish to improve their home (within the existing bedroom count) and in doing so raise their foundation to mitigate flood risk, this should be seen as a positive outcome for all. To know that the ORC seeks to remove the ability to apply for resource consent, diminishing all possibility and hope is disappointing and draconic.


5. Bank maintenance (albeit minimal) and flow data (albeit less frequent) is valuable to residents.

The local authorities and communities of yester-year cared for and supported each other, to sacrifice a few to save some was neither entertained nor an option. They were men and women of action, as is evidenced by the extensive flood bank network that stretches the length and breadth of the Taieri Plains. What a wonderful legacy they entrusted to the care of succeeding authorities. It is unfortunate the incumbents tend to prefer consultants, lawyers, cost benefit analysis, band-aid solutions and transference of responsibility. How far we have fallen.

Please note we have also supported and signed the collective submission lodged by the "Gordon Road Spillway Residents Group" and our submission includes all matters covered in both of the submissions.

Signed: 
Ronda McLaren

6 April 2023

Signed: 
John McLaren

6 April 2023