

Mrs Chris Henderson

This is a personal submission.

I have been involved in water-related issues since the Save Manapouri campaign, was a Guardian of lakes Manapouri, Te Anau and Monowai, and am presently a member for over 25 years of the Waiau River Working Party, endeavouring - so far unsuccessfully, to negotiate with Meridian to provide a flow regime that will restore this river which was virtually dewatered for the Bluff Smelter and now for so-called sustainable electricity.

The lower Waiau before HEP had an average flow of 550 cumecs. It now has an average flow of 14-16 cumecs with some additional flows for recreational and hydraulic reasons.

This river, and others still needing base flows to restore ecosystem health, are stark examples of the ignorance of people who have failed to check the reality that these rivers are being treated as channels rather than living entities all life requires for survival.

Clearly, until these rivers are restored, hydro-electricity cannot be described as sustainable.

The lower Waiau river here in Southland, and others without flows which sustain ecosystem health, continue to decline while we delude ourselves about their parlous state.

This paper assumes hydro-electricity is sustainable.

I contend that this is a false assumption which changes the context of this paper.

All I ask is that you check my assertions, whatever else you do with this late submission.

I am prepared to speak to my submission.

Yours Sincerely,

(Mrs) Chris Henderson