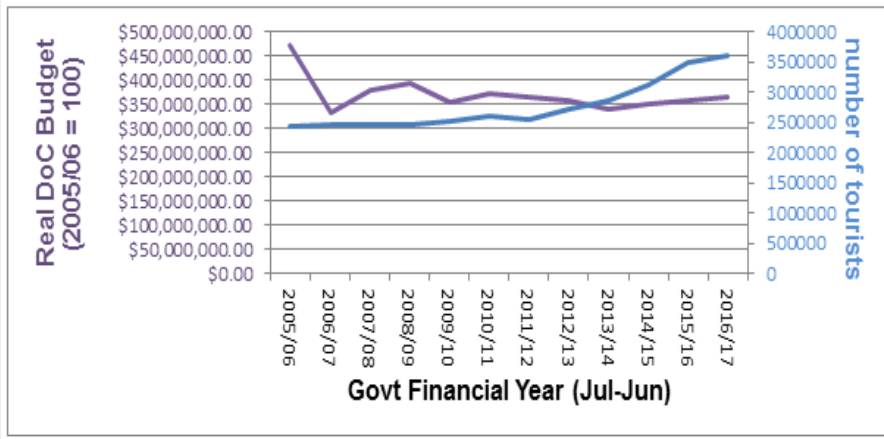


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With nearly sixty tourism associations, industry bodies, global and regional promoters driving inexorable demand for visitors, DoC are left to reactively manage supply of attractions, such as Milford Sound. The Outdoors Party wants to see some limits set on our tourist numbers in order that both locals and visitors alike can continue to enjoy our space without crowding and conflict.



## Manifesto for New Zealand's Marine Inshore Fisheries – *Fish for the People!*



Illegal Fish Dumping Recovery

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) has set out the policies required to restore New Zealand's inshore fisheries to abundant levels and return the marine environment to a more productive ecosystem. This is in reaction to loss of public confidence in way our fisheries are being managed. The ongoing reports of wasteful practices, widespread dumping and high grading all point to a system with poor oversight and a Ministry captured by the very people it is charged with administering.

This year MPI admitted that half of inshore trawlers would be out of business if fish dumpers were prosecuted.

The NZSFC policies are

**1. Establish a Royal Commission of Inquiry into fisheries management and the Quota Management System.**

Review the Quota Management System to promote environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits due to all New Zealanders from the use of our natural marine resources.

**2. Amend the Fisheries Act to include an Allocation Principle**

Where a species of fish is not sufficiently abundant to support both commercial and non-commercial fishing, preference will be given to non-commercial fishing.

**3. Remove industrial fishing methods such as trawling, Danish seining and dredging from the inshore zone.**

A century of ever-expanding use of heavy, bottom contact mobile gear has transformed the sea floor from a thriving benthic community of organisms to a desert of fine silt.

A coastal zone where low-impact commercial fishing, customary and recreational fishing can co-exist will deliver more value to New Zealand and better protect biodiversity.

**4. Establish a separate and well resourced Ministry of Fisheries.**

By lumping fisheries management in with other primary sectors, the current Ministry for Primary Industries attempts to manage a wild stock with the approach they use to manage farmed stock, such as increasing growth for exports

**5. Amend the Fisheries Act to remove "maximum sustainable yield" as the management benchmark and replace it with a minimum 50% of the unfished biomass.**

The Ministry of Primary Industries goal of doubling export earnings for the primary sector means consideration of quota cuts to rebuild stocks falls a distant second to the money that can be brought in from overfishing stocks.

### In This Edition

Irrigation Pollution  
DoC Land Swaps  
DoC In Court Again  
Inshore Fisheries  
Tourism Tsunami  
NZ Outdoors Party

# OUTDOOR NEWS

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## IRRIGATION TO-DATE IS THE TIP OF THE POLLUTION ICEBERG



The recent Government announcement of an additional \$44M for the Freshwater Improvement Fund might benefit from being set against the \$540M grants for new irrigation schemes which enable intensive farming and associated pollution.

The wholly Government owned Crown Irrigation Investments Ltd has committed just 15% of its \$540M irrigation subsidies so far, less than 2% of which has delivered working schemes to date. All this has occurred since April 2014 and so the effects of these schemes have yet to be fully felt. The Ministry of the Environment's 2017 report on freshwater quality (<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/node/23173>) identified worsening trends for nitrogen based pollution for rivers

flowing alongside pastoral land and so unless we systematically change the way we do dairy we can expect at least a **fifty fold increase in freshwater pollution.**

Tax payers subsidise mega-irrigation schemes, by grants and low interest loans and then pay for the freshwater clean up which arises from using these schemes. Crown Irrigation Investments has so far committed to funding an additional 130,000 hectares of irrigated land, an area larger than greater Auckland.

Ironically, the freshwater improvement fund is also being used to subsidise irrigation schemes, such as the \$7M earmarked for the Waimea dam project.



The NZ Outdoors Party was formed in 2015 by Alan Simmons and David Haynes and is founded on the belief that our seas, our rivers, our lakes, our beaches and our land all belong to the people of New Zealand. Our access and enjoyment of our natural environment is a given, it's part of our heritage, our culture and way of life.

But, our rivers are being sucked dry and polluted, fish dumping and over fishing is rife in our inshore fisheries, our game animals being poisoned and culled in the name of conservation and our public land being sold on the cheap. It is time for a change.

Our way of life is founded upon our ability to access and enjoy the great outdoors, to hunt, to tramp, to fish, to get a feed for the family. It's what makes us uniquely New Zealand. We want this protected so that future generations can enjoy it as much as we have."

If all the hunters, shooters, fishers, trampers, river lovers, bikers, kayakers and farmers give us their Party Vote this General Election then we really can make our outdoors the heart of New Zealand.

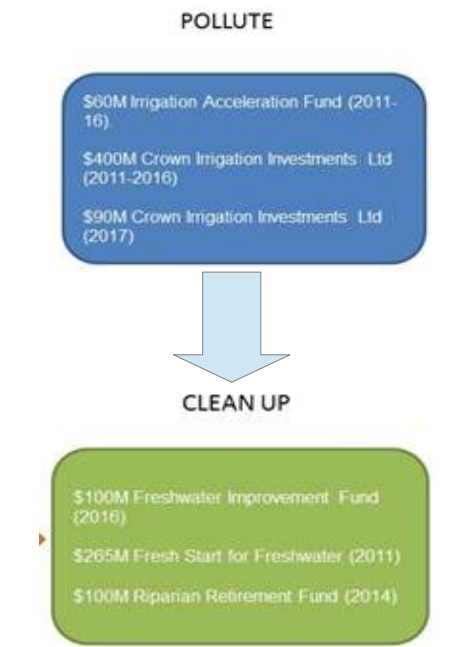
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# IRRIGATION BY THE NUMBERS 2014 - 2017

SCHEME	SUBSIDY	INCREASE IN IRRIGATED LAND
Stage 1 Central Plains Water, Canterbury	\$6.5M	40,000 hectares
Kurou Duntroon, Canterbury	\$388,000	4,000 hectares
Stage 2 Central Plains Water, Canterbury	\$65M	20,000 hectares
Northland	\$165,000	unknown
Hurunui, Canterbury	\$3.4M	21,000 hectares
Waimea Dam, Tasman	\$805,000	5,000 hectares
Hunter Downs, Canterbury	\$1.37M	21,000 hectares
Emu Plains, Canterbury	\$142,000	7,000 hectares
Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora, Canterbury	\$340,000	8,700 hectares
Manuherikia, Otago	\$815,000	unknown
TOTALS	\$78.9M	126,700



# DoC LAND SWAP THREAT CONTINUES



The proposed Ruataniwha dam scheme

Conservationists welcomed the Supreme Court decision which ruled illegal the swapping of Ruahine Forest Park Conservation Land to enable the Ruataniwha Dam construction in Hawkes Bay and congratulated Forest & Bird on a successful outcome.

However, since that decision, the Minister of Conservation, Maggie Barry, said she intended to now change the law so that DoC could exchange or dispose of public conservation land and enable

economic decisions to be made in the absence of environmental impacts.

The next test could come soon, as Crown Irrigation Investments has granted \$815,000 to the Manuherikia Water Project to assess how to increase its irrigation capacity, one option being to raise the Falls Dam by six metres.

If this option did proceed it would result in flooding part of the Oteake Conservation Park.

Our public conservation estate was previously administered by the Wildlife Service, Forest Service and

Lands and Survey Department. Along with this came a statutory obligation to manage such public land for conservation purposes, which includes recreation. In the Ruataniwha instance it has taken the Supreme Court to remind DoC of this obligation.

The Outdoors Party encourages DoC to commit to expanding its consultation and engagement with outdoors interest groups and to take stock of the fact that its primary function is one of protecting and preserving public conservation land, not horse-trading with it.

Outdoor Supporters

FMC Whitewater NZ Fish & Game NEW ZEALAND NZQA LEGASEA

# DoC Lose Another Court Case

The Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation (LNIRDF) is celebrating its High Court win against a Department of Conservation decision to allow helicopter-based Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO) in the lower North Island.

WARO operators hunt, kill and recover deer and transport the carcasses for sale to meat processors and require a permit from DoC to do this on public conservation land.

WARO concessions have been issued on a five year term since 2009 and an

important part of the process is DoC's statutory obligation to consult with all affected parties, including recreational hunters. In the case of the 2015 permits for the Ruahine, Rimutaka and Tararua Forest Parks, the LNIRDF established that the permits were invalid because DoC failed in their duty to consult with which the Court agreed.

The impact of this court decision will be a reminder to DoC that adequate and meaningful consultation with recreational hunters is a statutory obligation and not merely a formality.



Pack and rifle: icons of our culture

# Tourism – How Much is Too Much?



Hot Water Beach, Coromandel

Given most of our outdoors activities occurs on public conservation land it is fitting to check what is going on out there.

Since inheriting the land and assets of the Forest Service, Wildlife Service and Lands & Survey Departments back in 1987 DoC have migrated from benevolent landlord to struggling mortgagee in the last ten years. Faced with an unwinnable self-declared "war" on introduced species and swingeing

budget cuts, they have become a chimera – publicly accountable civil servants with pretensions to becoming a commercial enterprise. On top of this they are pushed into managing a tsunami of tourism, forecast to reach five million by 2023.

With a Minister but no Ministry of Tourism, DoC carry the can for Tourism New Zealand's growth target of 6 per cent average value growth through until 2025 reaching a combined (domestic and international) value of \$41 billion. After all, they don't come here to admire the

architecture. With 130,000 visitors to the Tongariro Crossing alone, it is clear that we are exceeding our capacity to manage them and so far the Government response has been to announce a \$100M package to build some infrastructure (read car parks, toilets and sewage facilities) and \$78M for another great walk. Considering tourism generates over \$2 billion in GST alone Federated Mountain Clubs, among others, consider this somewhat of a parsimonious gesture.

All these pressures are forcing DoC to commune with private enterprise who see profitable opportunity to be made in the public estate. At the TRENZ 2017 industry shindig the commercial tourism industry proposed that Government "Reduce barriers to private sector investment in new attractions and activities on the public conservation estate, and promote opportunities for concessionaires". Whether this means fairground rides in the Fiordland canopy remains to be seen, nevertheless it does put a shiver up most conservationists' spines. Cont...