

SPEECH BY ROBIN JUDKINS AT REFLECTIONS ON WATER, CATHEDRAL SQUARE ON SUNDAY 13 JUNE 2010

I broke my leg two weeks ago, during that amazing weatherbomb period. I slipped on a wooden edge rail in my garden and flipped sideways and backwards. I broke the fibula.

That pissed me off. But it didn't make me angry.

This does!

This makes me angry and pissed off.

We've been hoodwinked. We've been hijacked.

We've had two basic rights taken from us.

The right to clean water and the right to vote on who represents us on this issue.

This is not democracy. This is autocracy.

Four hundred dairy farmers have got Canterbury by the balls and they're squeezing.

They're squeezing Fonterror.

They're squeezing their mayors.

They're squeezing their M.P.s.

And they're squeezing Cabinet.

Now they're all squeezing Canterbury.

They want water. They want it for free.

And they want it forever.

They don't care you can't swim in Lake Forsythe and that Lake Ellesmere is nearly dead.

They don't care you can't drink the water in Cheviot or Dunsandel.

They just want to make milk.

And money.

They know it takes 70 litres of water to make one litre of milk.

They know it's uneconomic.

And they know it won't last.

Because it's cyclical.

And it's a commodity.

It's not milk. It's protein replacement.

And milk will be replaced, in turn by a cheaper protein replacement.

It's logical.

It's business.

So they need that water now and they need it free and forever.

They do not care what happens to the environment or our rights.

They say that scientists will take care of the environmental and that we don't need to vote on water.

There are 400,000 residents of greater Christchurch and they're about to vote in council elections.

Clean water will be a central issue for all candidates on all Canterbury councils, from the Mayor down, this year.

Parliamentary elections are due next year.

Water will be a central issue in those elections.

Over the last three years I have say in front of four commissions into water quality and distribution in Canterbury.

I have heard a great deal of emotive, conflicting scientific theory put forward by all parties.

If I had a wish it would go like this:

This is not the time for hurry.

This is not the time for rush.

Hit the pause button

And let the science catch up,

Thank you.