

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 1466

Karen Savage, **Karen June Savage**

Submitter Type: Individual

Source: Web Form

Overall Notes:

Clause

The specific parts of the application that my/our submission relates to are:

Notes

I support the purpose of Water Conservation Orders (199) RMA 1991 in general and agree that Te Waikoropupu Springs and associated water bodies has intrinsic values, but in this case a Water Conservation Order is not appropriate because; 1) The Applicant has not provided scientific evidence to support the current state of the waterways 2) It has not been acknowledged by the Applicant what I, and other farmers have done, and continue to do to mitigate the impact of our farming practices on waters associated with the aquifer of Te Waikaopupu Springs 3) The Resource Management Act 1991 requirement "the needs of primary and secondary industry, and the community" (207 b) will not be met.

Clause

What is/are your view/s on the application?

Position

Oppose (Please provide the reasons why with reference to section 199 and 207 of the RMA)

Notes

I oppose the application for a Water Conservation Order in relation to Te Waikoropupu Springs and associated water bodies. Whilst it is an outstanding amenity with intrinsic values (RMA 199 1,a) no evidence has been supplied by the Applicant to show that the waters are no longer in their natural state. I am disappointed that the Applicants have not considered mitigating work that has been/is being done by farmers and Tasman District Council to ensure the aquifer and associated water bodies terminating at Te Waikorpupu Springs are protected. Over the past few years my family has worked collaboratively with the experts at Tasman District Council to mitigate the impact of our farming operation on the Te Waikarapupu aquifer. Beautiful springs bubble up in our paddocks. They are sourced from the Takaka River. They have always dried up in the summer when flow is low; so fencing is not a legal requirement. Because we care for our farm, the Te Waikoropupu aquifer and our valley as a whole; 2.5 Km of fencing was professionally constructed about these springs to keep stock out and to establish riparian strips. We have also worked with Tasman District Council scientists to establish best practice in respect to cropping areas and to minimise run-off into tomos. All streams and rivers are fenced. As young farmers we no doubt made mistakes. Now we are informed. Consequently we (and our children) have taken steps to protect the aquifer. The impact of this work will be realised in due time.

Clause

I/we seek the following recommendation from the Special Tribunal to the Minister for the Environment

Position

Decline the order

Notes

I recognise the aquifer and Te Waikoropupu Springs as features of outstanding amenity and of intrinsic value; Resource Management Act Part 9 (Water Conservation Order 199- (1a). However, I am recommending the Special Tribunal decline the application for a Water Conservation Order to Te waikoropupu Spings and Associated bodies because 1) There is not enough scientific evidence to support the Order 2)Mitigation that is ongoing has not been acknowledged 3)Should a Conservation Order be settled on these waters, it negates Resource Management Act 1991 207 b. The needs of primary and secondary industry and the community will not be met

Clause

Would you like to present your views on this submission to the Special Tribunal at a public hearing?

Position

I/we do want to present my/our views at a public hearing

Notes

Thank you for considering my submission. I concede the Waikorpupu Springs are of intrinsic value but I am looking for evidence that the quality of the waters are at risk. If the Applicants, Farmers and Tasman District Council work together we can make sure

this treasure will never be at risk. I believe, by working collaboratively with the Applicants and Tasman District Council; utilising the support that TDC offers, we can farm effectively without detrimental impact on this outstanding amenity. This will protect our beautiful Te Waikorupupu Springs as well as the viability of a sector of our community who contribute to the wellbeing of a significant proportion of our district's population

Clause

If others make a similar submission, would you want to consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing?

Position

Yes

Notes