

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 1462

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Submitter Type: Individual

Source: Web Form

Overall Notes:

Clause

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

Notes

All parts.

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

We are members of Federated Farmers and endorse any submission lodged by Federated Farmers on behalf of members. We are fourth generation farmers in Takaka and Bainham. Farming is our livelihood and we consider ourselves to be effective and environmentally responsible custodians of the land. Access to water is critical to our farming operation and our general wellbeing as contributing members of our local community. Our understanding is the purpose of a Water Conservation Order (WCO) is to provide recognition of the outstanding amenity or intrinsic values of a water body; values considered outstanding at a national level. On the basis of the above definition we are concerned the Applicants have applied for the WCO for Te Waikoropupu Springs and associated water bodies (as listed in the Application). We have no issue with continuing to recognise Te Waikoropupu Springs as being nationally significant, however should the WCO be granted in it's proposed format, all water bodies in the Takaka catchment would be similarly managed and regulated under the construct of the WCO. We don't believe the Applicants have provided adequate proof as to how the values of all water bodies in the Takaka catchment could be considered outstanding and of sufficient natural significance to merit a WCO. We ask for the application to be denied on this basis. The inclusion of the entire Takaka catchment in the WCO presents an opportunity to significantly compromise the taking of water for any purpose other than those reflecting the values identified in the WCO application (listed (a) to (j) inclusive in 'the application.' The Applicants for the WCO offer no recognition of how a WCO will impact the values of the wider community and severely restrict the scope, extent or activity of primary and secondary industry across the Takaka catchment. The Takaka district relies on these industries for economic viability and sustainability. We ask for the application to be denied on this basis. We are concerned the application for the WCO seeks to deliberately undermine several other initiatives and regulatory frameworks already in place and for the most part successfully managing water quality and quantity in the Takaka catchment. The RMA, Regional Management Plans and the recommendations of the Takaka Freshwater and Land Advisory Group (FLAG) all offer the flexibility and adaptability to manage water quality and quantity in a manner best suited to supporting the needs of our local community. It is particularly disappointing to note the WCO seeks to compromise and diminish the effectiveness of FLAG; established with the purpose of enabling community consultation and collaboration on all values including environmental, social, cultural and economic factors as they apply to water quantity and quality management. A WCO, if granted, would be unilateral, inflexible and permanently impose restrictions and prohibitions on how water can be used; irrespective of community social and economic requirements. A WCO is both indulgent and unnecessary. We ask for the application to be denied on this basis.

Clause

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

Position

Decline the order

Notes

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

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

The submitter have elected to withhold their personal details from publication.