

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 1528

Hamish Hills, **John and Betsy Hills (John and Betsy Hills)**

Submitter Type: Individual

Source: Web Form

Overall Notes:

Clause

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

Notes

We do not agree with : Clauses - 5, 6, 7, 8(b)(c)(d), 9, 10, 11 and Schedules 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

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

My parents (John and Betsy Hills) moved to Golden Bay from the Manawatu in 1981 to their piece of rural paradise which was an 80HA dairy farm at Uruwhenua. Over the past 37 years the farm has expanded, it now consists of - 160HA milking platform (390 cows); 108HA of support blocks for young stock; 17HA of Radiata Pine; and 320HA of native bush. Additional land is also being farmed in conjunction with an outside partnership of which 45HA of native land is currently in the process of being sold to the Department of Conservation to be included as part of the Abel Tasman National Park. Over the past 37 years my parents have been very active in the community having been involved in the Upper Takaka Fire Brigade, Takaka Golf Club, Takaka Rugby club of which John is a life member and many more organisations. John and Betsy have also made substantial financial contributions in the local community (there are too many to name) and abroad. Two major International funding contributions are - (1) funding of a school building for the Maasai in the Amboseli National Park in Kenya; and (2) funding a power scheme to a school in Fiji with another local farmer. My Partner Monique, and I moved back to Golden Bay in May last year after a 9-year hiatus in Australia, where Monique worked as an accountant and I was a senior member of a Strategy and Development Team constructing Integrated Resorts in Australia and abroad. Moving home to the farm was not a financial decision, it was a decision based on what would be the best place to raise a family and the farm was our first choice. Our farm is a very low input farm (System 1). John tries to farm as naturally as possible. Our animals are grass feed all year around, with hay feed in the winter months and baleage in the dry summer months. We do not have irrigation and we apply minimal nitrogen in the form of fertiliser. We as family are very proud of the Te Waikoropupū Springs (Springs) and have always "bragged" when traveling, or talking to people abroad about how we have the clearest water in the world. We have numerous overseas and New Zealand visitors stay with us annually and they never go away without visiting the Springs. We do support the Springs being the subject of a Water Conservation Order (WCO). However, we do not support the current DRAFT Te Waikoropupū Springs and the Arthur Marble Aquifer Water Conservation Order in its current form. Our points of concern: • the application is too broad in terms of the water bodies sought to be captured by the WCO; • the clauses and the wording a far too broad and need to be more specific; • "Natural State" and the influence of the Cobb Dam. The Takaka catchment is not in its natural state especially due to the Cobb Dam. Water levels/flows of the Takaka River as well as the AMA and Springs are higher than what they would be in their natural state; • it is not reasonable to not grant any further consents for water abstraction, whether that be for irrigation or stock water; and • water quality limits should be trigger levels not hard limits.

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 similiar submission, would you want to consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing?

Position

Yes

Notes

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