

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 1471

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Submitter Type: Individual

Source: Web Form

Overall Notes:

Clause

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

Position

Support

Notes

I am a resident of Golden Bay, living in Onekaka with my wife and two school aged children. We value Te Waikoropupu Springs because: - they are unique within New Zealand - they are internationally significant, due to their incredible clarity - they are currently in a pristine condition, due to the processes that take place within the Arthur Marble Aquifer, by native fauna and flora - we enjoy visiting the Springs, and enjoy listening to, and seeing the spring waters as they bubble up (in amazing volumes!) from the rocks - they provide recreational opportunities -- to walk around and visit, to immerse oneself in an unspoiled natural environment I value not only the Te Waikoropupu Springs themselves, but the interconnected aquifer and waterways with which they are linked. To me, the springs are outstanding -- they are some of the clearest waters in the world -- and the process by which native fauna contribute to making the waters clear is certainly unique in New Zealand. I am an immigrant to New Zealand, arriving in 1999, and was granted citizenship in 2003. I am a university educated Computer Scientist, gaining my B.A (Hons.) degree -- and later M.A. -- from Cambridge University. I am not a geomorphology-, hydrology-, nor biogeography-trained scientist, but I am reliant on known, proven data for making decisions; and when known data is absent, relying on the "precautionary principle" is a solid foundation for the preservation of physical systems. The Arthur Marble Aquifer is mainly "out of mind" for the majority of residents in the Golden Bay area, and yet it's function is crucial for the maintenance of the clarity of Te Waikoropupu Springs. If the waters contained in this aquifer become more polluted, then the impact on the Springs is unknown, but must surely be detrimental. Moreover, the Crown has formally recognised Ngāti Tama as guardians of the area, as kaitiaki. Their connection to Mohua (Golden Bay) is arguably more significant than that of pākehā new-comers. The WCO has been proposed to protect the wāhi tapu that is the Te Waikoropupū freshwater and springs system; and to protect them for the "descendants of Ngāti Tama and the communities of New Zealand." The tāngata whenua are graciously including tāngata tiriti -- that is, non-indigenous New Zealanders who are in the country by virtue of the Tiriti o Waitangi -- to share in that preservation, so that our children, grand-children and descendants can also share and enjoy the globally uniquely clear and pure waters of Te Waikoropupū. To Ngati Tama, Te Waikoropupu Springs signify more than just physical elements; they embody the life force of Papatūānuku and the tears from Ranginui, which links their past to their present. Currently, there is no legal protection for the Springs, the Aquifer or the waterways with which these are connected, despite their being a significant number of plans, schedules and tools which are concerned with the management of natural resources. I urge the Special Tribunal to grant this Water Conservation Order application in its entirety, so that these Springs, Aquifer and interconnected waterways may be given official, legal protection, so that its intrinsic values --of which I have touched on a few above -- may be maintained.

Clause

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

Position

Grant 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

I request that I be able to present my oral submission via a conference call/Skype/video conferencing facility