

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 1368

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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

We recognise the cultural values and iwi responsibilities in their role as kaitiaki of the Te Waikoropupu Springs. We acknowledge the need to protect outstanding values both above and below ground relating to Te Waikoropupu Springs. It is noted also that this is the first WCO order to attempt to cover such a complex aquifer system, and as such there are no precedents. We wish also to recognize the good work the FLAG group has done both as an independent body - and in their commitment to working in partnership with TDC staff throughout the process of defining common ground. The base for moving forward.

Clause

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

Position

Neutral

Notes

The Tasman District Council staff are entrusted with working towards a robust Tasman Resource Management Plan (along with other planning instruments) as living documents to protect all values as set out for land and water management within the RMA. Therefore it is our belief that the TRMP, when completed, will be based on relevant scientific data to provide that robust framework for best protection of the Springs and aquifers. Ultimately providing a better control mechanism giving regard to section 207 of the RMA

Clause

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

Position

Decline the order

Notes

We treasure the Te Waikoropupu Springs - our respect reinforced over many years of visiting the site and being awed by their power and beauty. We want them to be protected now and in the future. Our submission is based on what we believe to be the best way to do so.

Clause

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

Position

I/we do not want to present my/our views at a public hearing

Notes

Our history. We farmed alongside the Waingaro river for 44 years before selling main block of dairy farm in 2017. Over those years our family, friends and neighbours, appreciated the recreational opportunities, swimming, picnicking and exploring along the river. Patches native bush were also fenced off over the years. From the early 80's riparian plantings (bitter willows) were undertaken all along the river, and replacement plantings and refencing maintained as floods exposed weak spots. Natives were encouraged in less vulnerable pressure points. The stream riparian areas (already fenced to keep stock out of waterways) were over time planted with natives. The Waingaro has been a part of our lives. In the 90's awareness of water quality saw various developments and responses. An independent stream monitoring kit (SMAHK) was promoted and we were involved at the time. Testing for, clarity, invertebrates, conductivity, flow, PH and sedimentation on in the streambed. Involving GBHS. The presence of invertebrates in the river and streams an indication of stream health. Checking for invertebrates became part of our swim routine! Our irrigation began in response to the 2001 drought when the dairy season finished abruptly with the whole herd dried off by mid March. The season shortened by two and a half months. Hence a small area (11 ha) was irrigated from the 2002 season, then gradually extended over 14 yrs until currently one third of the farm is under irrigation. We have worked with the land -regrassing with a variety of grasses and clovers and including deep rooted chicory and plantains. Always using soil testing as a base for applying fertiliser. Grazing changes and management practices aiming to protect soil

structure. The farm sale went through last year to the family who had been in a farming partnership with us for 12 years. Because of the length of that partnership we can feel confident that the family will continue to foster good stewardship and maintain a responsible relationship with the land.

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