

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 116

Richard English

Submitter Type: Individual

Source: Web Form

Clause

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

Notes

Water Clarity I have been visiting the Springs for more than forty years and over that period have taken many visitors to view them as well. Unsurprisingly the visitors invariably comment on the clarity of the Springs. In response I used to repeat the statement about the Springs being some of the clearest in the world. Then I discovered that the latter statement is based on, I understand, only one set of readings. Were the results taken on that occasion representative of the general clarity of the water or was the water on that day unusually clear or conversely cloudy? Nobody knows. However this matter becomes particularly pertinent if management of the Springs is to be based on the measurement of various chemical and physical parameters which inherently must include clarity if we are to preserve one of the defining characteristics of the Springs. If the only (?), potentially unrepresentative, measured value of clarity is enshrined in the Conservation Order as "the status quo" what happens if the measured value declines, or more correctly falls below the Conservation Order value? Would farm practices upstream of the Springs need to be changed for example and if so what would the ramifications of these changes be? If the earlier single point measurement of clarity was in fact not representative of the norm would the postulated (costly?) farming changes be justified? As I noted previously, nobody knows. Accordingly, given the adage that states "if you don't measure it you can't manage it", I strongly urge that more measurements of clarity be undertaken before any numbers are enshrined into the Conservation Order.

Clause

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

Position

Neutral

Notes

Clause

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

Position

Neutral

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