

# Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 869

**Eliana Karin Darroch**

**Submitter Type:** Individual

**Source:** Web Form

## Overall Notes:

### Clause

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

### Notes

Protection of Te Waikoropupu and associated water ways. With respect to the significance of the water and areas to manawhenua in accordance to tikanga maori. Recognition of the cultural and spiritual value of Te Waikoropupu. Protection of water purity. protection of tourist and recreational value. Protection of wild, scenic and natural characteristics. Biodiversity value. Scientific and ecological value.

### Clause

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

### Position

Support

### Notes

My name is Eliana Darroch, I am from Motueka and my ancestors are pakeha early settlers to Motueka and Nelson and Dunedin, though in my life I have lived throughout New Zealand and have returned to settle in Motueka again in the past 18 months. When I first visited Waikoropupu springs in 2014 I was on a summer holiday with friends in Takaka. I was looking for attractions in the region to fill my time and to appreciate the nature of the environment. From the first moment I got to the entrance of the park I felt the specialness of the energy of the place. For the rest of the time I walked through the park it felt really amazing and I spent quite a long time in the different parts of the streams and the main lake feeling the energy of the place and observing the crystal clear water or the main pool. It was certainly rejuvenating and one of the highlights of my time in Takaka that summer. I was surprised at how many people were visiting the springs. It was difficult to find a car park because soo many tourist vehicles were there. People from many different cultural background were walking the paths and looking in awe at the pristine clear water. It seemed to be a really positive experience for everyone who was there. To take irrigation from the area which feeds the aquifer would cause detrimental effects upon the Te Waikoropupu, its unthinkable to take that water and then use it for intensive dairy farming, with its many pollutant variables. I have observed the effects of dairy farming on waterways around NZ and learnt about the pollutant effects on ground water supplies. It can take 10 years for the nitrates to leech into underground waterways, which means the ongoing effects of dairy farming not only effect the runoff, but also the underground water, often that which is drawn upon for bores and human supply, is contaminated. In this circumstance it is important that the land above Te Waikoropupu is not used in a way which has an onflow effect of pollution to the spring below. Maintaining the purity of Te Waikoropupu is valuable in soo many ways. I personally believe that Takaka, being such a special area in being geographically isolated and its climate and reputation of being an alternative place, should focus more on being an organic region that grows food and plants that benefit the land it grows on rather than causing pollutant effects such as those inevitable with dairy farming. If people insist on dairy farming there are ways of doing it that are more responsible and less pollutant. Such solutions include Biochar to balance the chemistry in the soil. Making profit for the benefit of a few which causes pollution which has ongoing effects beyond the land area they are in possession of, and drawing on a natural resource to do so, is grossly unethical. The ongoing effects of dairy farming in our natural environment include ecoli levels making water unsafe for life as documented recently in Taranaki resulting in the closure of access for humans to rivers and the death of small aquatic life such as freshwater crayfish/ koura and eels and fish in the area (<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/checkpoint/audio/2018630805/cows-blamed-for-closure-of-popular-swimming-holes>). The biodiversity and native flora and fauna in the water ways in the Takaka area need protection and deserve to live. Biodiversity is a valueable part of the ecology in the area and needs to be respected and decisions to protect them be made accordingly.

### Clause

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

### Position

Grant the order

### Notes

Whanganui River was given personhood status and protection in the past few years, this reflects a changing view of nature as

respecting it as a living being and granting it rights. Im gladdened by this move and hope that Te Waikoropupu springs, takaka river and its tributary rivers of Waingarō, Anatoki, Waikoropupu are held in the same regard of being given the respect and protection rather than exploitation and pollution. The cave structure under Te kahurangi ranges coming out on the takaka side is complex and carries water that is meant to be a resource for sustaining life. Overseas and to those seeking to capitalise on NZ's natural resources, it is being understood the immense value of water, especially such pure water as what surfaces from the aquifer where waikoropupu is. With water supplies in large cities such as Johannesburg dwindling causing major problems for the population to receive the necessities of life, at this point in human history we need to be making wise choices for the future to protect the pure water that we have, not cause pollution to by extracting that water and causing pollution in the catchment above the spring. My recomendation is that the proposed 70% water extraction for intensive farming above te waikoropupu is declined on the basis of protecting the health of Te Waikoropupu, the beings which live in it, and the tributary waterways as well as its cultural significance as a place special to mana whenua and for tourism.

**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**