

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 90

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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

Immediate protection for Te Waikoropupū Springs and its associated water bodies and catchment areas including the confined and unconfined Arthur Marble Aquifer.

Clause

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

Position

Support

Notes

I strongly support immediate protection of Te Waikoropupu springs as well as the aquifer and catchment area of the springs which support and protect the purity of the water. It is all interconnected. I support this for many reasons: Firstly, for their outstanding natural beauty. They are a national treasure and a very valuable and precious source of pristine fresh water. I believe that it is some of the cleanest water in the World. If that is not worth preserving, then what is? Pristine water is becoming increasingly scarce and valuable. As a country we have not cared well for our important water sources which is very sad and frankly shameful. Many rivers are in a very sad state and some are literally dying. They are the lifeblood of the country. We need to really wake up to the crucial importance of looking after our special natural areas and clean fresh water sources in particular. Secondly, I understand that these waters are a sacred treasure or taonga for the Maori people, as well as for all people. As a country in the past we have been very careless in looking after such things and it is time that we stopped being so irresponsible and thoughtless. Thirdly, we as the current generation, are the custodians of these waters and we have a responsibility to protect them for future generations of New Zealanders and future generations of tourists who will want to visit them. Fourthly, it is a popular tourist attraction and tourism is now our biggest industry in New Zealand. We need to carefully protect our tourist attractions to support this important industry. Some people have never tasted such pristine fresh water and it would be nice if all visitors to the springs had the chance to taste such water at least once in their lives. This would only be possible if it is acceptable to the Maori people due to the sacredness of the water. Finally, I understand that the increased levels of irrigation due to intensive farming have already led to increased levels of pollution in the waters of the springs. Nitrate levels for example have risen by about 10%. This is totally unacceptable and we need to immediately stop or minimise any more pollution going into the catchment area. I am appalled that the Tasman District Council is proposing to increase the level of irrigation by 70% which will undoubtedly increase the pollution of the springs. This is totally unacceptable in my view and indicates a lack of understanding of the inherent value of these waters. Therefore I call on the Environmental Protection Authority to do what is clearly well overdue and approve a Water Conservation Order for the Springs, the Aquifer and the whole catchment area.

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

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