

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 1573

ECO Executive Officer - Michael Pringle, **ECO - Environment and Conservation Organisations of NZ Inc**

Submitter Type: Organisation

Source: Web Form

Overall Notes:

Clause

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

Notes

Application for a Conservation Order - there is no legal recognition of the qualities that the aquifer imparts to the water at Te Waikoropupu; a WCO would recognise these. We ask that: Ngati Tama's voice as Kaitiaki (guardian) of Te Waikoropupū be valued and respected; That the spiritual presence that manifests at Te Waikoropupū should be afforded protection; That steps be urgently taken to reduce the nitrate pollution entering the aquifer as a result of intensive dairy farming; Steps be urgently taken to replenish the reducing levels of dissolved oxygen in the aquifer as a result of intensive dairy farming; Steps be taken to reduce the levels of silt washing into the aquifer following heavy rain as a result of intensive dairy farming; Steps be taken to reduce the length of the extended intensive dairy season which is causing faeces and nitrate to wash into the aquifer during the heavy autumn rains; We ask that urgent and practical steps be taken to reduce the size of intensive dairy herds; We ask that the amount of fertiliser used in the Takaka valley be reduced and regulated; That no further water rights be granted to intensive farmers; and after a 5 year period, all water rights be reduced; That intensive farmers be encouraged to follow the example of sustainable farmers who have reduced herd sizes, reduced fertiliser use, sown heritage grasses, farm without irrigation and yet are still able to make a healthy income; We ask that the tiny creatures and bugs (stygo fauna) within the aquifer be fully protected. It is the stygo fauna who clean the waters and create the crystal clear flow we see at Te Waikoropupū. Too much nitrate pollution and not enough dissolved oxygen will kill the stygo fauna. We ask that this precious ecosystem be fully protected.

Clause

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

Position

Support

Notes

The Environment and Conservation Organisations of NZ Inc , (ECO) is the national alliance of 48 groups with a concern for the environment and conservation. ECO has been involved in issues of environmental management and practice, law and policy since our formation in 1971-2. We were closely involved in the discussions around the ideas behind, and the operation of, the RMA, the Conservation Act and the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf Act, (EEZ & CA) and have been engaged in resource management issues, issues of open government and due process since. In our role as the organisation of non-government organisations with a concern for the environment. we maintain a close watch on issues of process and participation and of course, of environmental law and management.

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

Clause

If others make a similar submission, would you want to consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing?

Position

