

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 120

Sarah Spurway, **Sarah Spurway**

Submitter Type: Individual

Source: Web Form

Overall Notes:

Clause

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

Notes

Opposing increasing Irrigation

Clause

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

Position

Oppose (Please provide the reasons why with reference to section 199 and 207 of the RMA)

Notes

The underground water and the caverns it runs through are called the aquifer, and the small animals and bugs living in the aquifer (stygo fauna) are an essential part of producing the outstandingly clear water. The aquifer must be cared for so that it remains a healthy place for the stygo fauna to live. The Water Conservation Order (WCO) calls for the aquifer to be protected. It is vital that the land use above the aquifer and elsewhere in the Takaka catchment that feeds into the aquifer be compatible with the ongoing health of the aquifer and the tiny creatures within it. At present 'land use' especially applies to intensive farming but the WCO will also protect the aquifer from other industries, now or in the future. The move to intensive irrigated farming during the last 10 years has a detrimental impact on the above health indicators. A related concern is that most of the water rising at the main Spring has been underground for 10 years! So we don't know what levels of pollution are already in the aquifer. What we do know is that if we wreck the priceless underground ecosystem within the aquifer there is nothing to replace it with. So the water in the main Spring today reflects the farming of 10 years ago, when there was hardly any irrigation! Even so, it appears the impacts of intensive farming are becoming apparent. For example, weekly testing over the last two years shows the nitrate level in the main Spring has risen 10%.

Clause

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

Position

Decline the order

Notes

Please preserve this natural spring!

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