

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 1251

Clare Green

Submitter Type: Individual

Source: Web Form

Overall Notes:

Clause

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

Notes

The outstanding values identified in the application: a) significance in accordance with tikanga Māori; d) scientific and ecological values; g) habitat for indigenous fauna; j) wild, scenic and natural characteristics

Clause

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

Position

Support

Notes

As a child growing up in Takaka during the late 80's and early 90's I spent a lot of time with my family at "Pupu Springs". I remember drinking directly from the water, watching fresh water crayfish moving along the bottom, seeing the gigantic tuna (eels) dart out from under the banks and disappear just as quickly, and seeing people using the area for picnics and recreation. This space has personal meaning for me because it was a founding experience that led me to study Zoology at Otago University and later Environmental Studies at Victoria Univeristy. From an ecological perspective, the smallest changes within an ecosystem can have far-reaching and cascading effects. If the habitat cannot support the keystone species within that ecosystem, the whole ecosystem collapses. Gradual changes to water quality may not directly affect a keystone species, but could result in different types of algal growth which affects the levels of oxygen in the water, or change the nutrient composition of the ecosystem which might negatively impact smaller species that a keystone species relies on for food. I also understand and appreciate the cultural significance of this place, the flora and fauna for tangata whenua. I support their right to tino rangatiratanga over their rohe. Within Te Ao Maori the physical and spiritual worlds are interconnected, and water is a vital element that binds these two together. Everything has mauri in Te Ao Maori, except for polluted water. If we allow this water system to become polluted or degraded, not only are we accepting that it is OK to put the species that inhabit this area at risk, and reduce leisure opportunities for Kiwis and tourists, but that it is OK to disregard the Maori worldview. Tino rangatiratanga is a provision of the Treaty of Waitangi which should be upheld. We are a bicultural nation, which means we should acknowledge and honour the Maori worldview. I support Ngati Tama's right to guide and direct conservation activity within their rohe. Although I don't operate within a Maori worldview, I can see the social and cultural benefits that Pakeha & Taiwi will receive from this proposal. I believe we owe it to future generations of all New Zealanders to preserve and protect this area. We have the knowledge, understanding and forethought to achieve it. Now we look to you to take action.

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

Notes

The submitter have elected to withhold their personal details from publication.