

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 850

As above, Iona Sarah Margaret Jelf



Submitter Type: Individual

Source: Web Form

Overall Notes:

Clause

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

Notes

My submission relates to the outstanding features of the aquifer and springs deemed protection under the following sections of the RMA, namely: = The extensive cultural and spiritual significance to Maori, 199(2)(c) = The recreational, cultural and spiritual significance for all, 199(2)(b)(v) = The significant scientific and ecological importance, 199(2)(b)(iv) = The habitat for aquatic organisms, 199(2)(b)(i) = The exceptional water clarity, 199(2)(b)(iii)

Clause

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

Position

Support

Notes

The outstanding qualities of Te Waikoropupu are without question. To sacrifice these benefits that we all deserve, now and in the future, for the material gain of a few, is both irresponsible and immoral. Not to mention the wairua and mauri of the water itself, for it's own sake. As well as being a taonga, Te Waikoropupu is a treasure of biodiversity and is of outstanding cultural, scientific and ecological importance internationally, and our government has a duty to safeguard the site. WCOs have previously been granted for rivers only, but in this case protection of the whole aquifer, including all the rivers that flow into it, is necessary to protect the exceptional water quality of the springs. Aquatic ecosystems are known to have a narrow tolerance to changes exceeding natural ranges of water level, flow, temperature and chemistry. Water extraction and pollution are both major threats which need to be minimised to prioritise protection and preservation of the most precious resource we have, water.

Clause

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

Position

Grant the order

Notes

I would like the Special Tribunal to recommend that the Ministry of Education grant the WCO, thereby: = Honouring the Deed of Settlement signed on 20/04/13 between Ngati Tama and the Crown, fully recognising Ngati Tama in their role of kaitiaki of Te Waikoropupu. = Acknowledging that over 90,000 people visited Te Waikoropupu in 2016, and that the springs are internationally recognised to be of outstanding cultural and spiritual importance. NB. The RMA definition of "environment" includes "people and their communities". = Prioritising the protection and preservation of Te Waikoropupu over commercial interests. Landcare Research reported in November 2015 that increased irrigation will lead to an increase of nitrates in the aquifer. Present NO3 levels have been increasing steadily over time and are currently at the maximum levels advised for the aquifer by NIWA, (0.4mg NO3-N/L), in order to maintain clarity. When aquifer levels are low dissolved oxygen becomes a critical factor, and the stygofauna population that uses oxygen to digest organic matter and purify the water may be irreversibly damaged. NIWA research has shown that the current levels of dissolved oxygen in the water discharging from the springs (6mg/L) is the minimum requirement for these organisms. Given that the water in the aquifer primarily feeding the springs remains underground for 10 years, the readings taken now reflect the farming practices of 10 years ago. Because we have no idea what effect current practices are having on an ecosystem currently little understood, we must exercise the precautionary principle. The FLAG proposal made in September 2016 moved to more than double the current water allocation from 500L/sec to 766L/sec, with an additional 355L/sec available. This proposal has ignored the research and must not be enabled before the WCO is granted. = Holding TDC to account on their general objectives within the TRPS and TRMP, both written in accordance

with the RMA. = Recognising that because Te Waikoropupu is a "wahi tapu", under the Historical Protection Act, it is an offence to damage or modify it without a permit. I don't think a permit would be granted.

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

I would like to speak to my submission at the hearing, thankyou. Iona S M Jelf BSc Agricultural Science

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

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

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 March 2018 10:00 a.m.
To: Waikoropupu
Subject: Reference no 850: Iona Jelf

Kia ora

I really appreciate that the EPA have granted an extension to the submission deadline in respect of the challenges that we're facing here.

On reading my submission I realise I've made a typo, would you please amend it?

Under the Clause "I/we seek the following recommendation from the Special Tribunal to the Minister for the Environment", my Notes should read " I would like the Special Tribunal to recommend that the Minister for the Environment grant the WCO, thereby...."

Thankyou.

Kind regards

Iona Jelf