

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 231

Donald Kern

Submitter Type: Individual

Source: Email

Overall Notes:

Clause

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

Position

Support

Notes

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

I support the application made by Ngāti Tama Ki Te Waipounamu Trust and Andrew Yuill for a Water Conservation Order (the Order) for Te Waikoropupū Springs and associated water bodies.

I recommend that the Special Tribunal to the Minister for the Environment grant the order, as requested in the application.

I 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 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;

I ask that urgent and practical steps be taken to reduce the size of intensive dairy herds;

I 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;

I 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. I ask that this precious ecosystem be fully protected.