

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 1231

Rachel Mudge

Submitter Type: Individual

Source: Email

Overall Notes:

Clause

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

Notes

I support the Forest & Bird submission to grant the application. In particular I support measures for the wider catchment which will protect: the water clarity and purity the scientific, ecological and biodiversity values habitat for indigenous flora and fauna cultural values wild, scenic and natural characteristics My submission relates to all of the application. I support the application. I seek that the Special Tribunal recommends granting the order to the Minister of the Environment. I do not want to present my views at the public hearing.

Clause

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

Position

Support

Notes

As a New Zealander I identify myself as a guardian of our natural environment. I work as a sustainable land use advisor throughout New Zealand. My work through the consultancy, Tipu Whenua, involves researching farm systems, providing advice to farmers and regional councils regarding sustainable farm systems configuration. Our water does not have a voice so it is up to the people who understand the issue and its intricacies to help others understand. Continuing down this intensification of land use via irrigation is crippling New Zealand. Misplaced and poorly configured dairy systems expel excessive nutrient, sediment and bacterial losses into our sensitive ecosystems. Farm system studies indicate financial returns on irrigated dairy farms are marginal, once high costs of electricity, infrastructure and resources are accounted for, when compared to farms operating in the appropriate landscape (soils, rainfall and topography). If the environmental impacts were also accounted for inside the farm gate these farms would be totally unviable. The resulting mess of allowing these systems to be established up includes farmers strangled by high debt and stress, ecosystems suffocated with excess nutrients and pathogens. The argument that the economic development from irrigation expansion is good for the region is short sighted and founded upon corporate propaganda. History shows eventually the public voice may win out over the private sector, whereby the taxpayer will end up subsidising the environmental clean up such as in the Lake Taupo and Rotorua Lakes catchments. The question is will New Zealand be capable of restoring these taonga to their original state? Or will we lose them forever?

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