

# Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 258

Andrew Bell, **Andrew Bell**

**Submitter Type:** Individual

**Source:** Web Form

## Overall Notes:

### Clause

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

### Notes

Te Waikoropupū Springs are quite possibly the clearest fresh waters in the world but they are presently under threat from intensive dairy farming. The increasing nitrate pollution and increased water extraction are major dangers to the Marble Arthur Aquifer which feeds Te Waikoropupū Springs. I fully support the wishes of the local Iwi, Ngāti Tama, in seeking a Water Conservation Order (WCO). A WCO will enable the local iwi and other concerned citizens to protect the Springs now and into future. Therefore, I fully 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. And I would strongly 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; That urgent steps be taken to replenish the reducing levels of dissolved oxygen in the aquifer as a result of intensive dairy farming; That immediate steps be taken to reduce the levels of silt washing into the aquifer following heavy rain as a result of intensive dairy farming; That measures be put in place 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; That urgent and practical steps be taken to reduce the size of intensive dairy herds in the region; 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 drastically reduced; That all intensive farmers in the region be encouraged to follow the example of sustainable farmers who have reduced herd sizes, reduced fertiliser use, sown heritage grasses, who farm without irrigation and yet are still able to make a healthy income; That the tiny creatures and bugs (stygofauna) within the aquifer be fully protected. Because water scientists have determined that it is the stygofauna 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 stygofauna. I submit that this precious ecosystem needs to be fully protected with greatest urgency before it is destroyed beyond the possibility of restoration. Sincerely, Andrew Bell Concerned private citizen and ecological advocate

### 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