

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 59

Myself, **Opal Springs (Vaughan Alexander Jackson)**

Submitter Type: Organisation

Source: Web Form

Overall Notes:

Clause

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

Notes

The Duty of the Crown (Government of New Zealand) to protect taonga (treasures) under Clause 2 of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Clause

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

Position

Neutral

Notes

Clause

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

Position

Neutral

Notes

The Crown (the Government of New Zealand) owes a binding duty to preserve taonga (treasures) under clause 2 of the Treaty of Waitangi. The Springs are indeed a taonga! They must be preserved for future generations. We do not own the land, we are merely Kaitiaki (Guardians). The Pakeha system of Common Law ownership of Land (namely Fee Simple and Fee Tail) are misguided and flawed when they contradict the absolute duty to protect the lands of Aotearoa for future generations. We owe this to our mokopuna (future children) and also for tourists both today and for the future. Furthermore the Treaty of Waitangi is recognized at International Law by International Courts of Justice. As such, it is enforceable. Furthermore... Furthermore, with regards to the Resource Management Act, The underground water and the caverns it runs through are called the aquifer, and the small animals and bugs living in the aquifer (stygofauna) are an essential part of producing the outstandingly clear water. The aquifer must be cared for so that it remains a healthy place for the stygofauna to live. The WCO calls for the aquifer to be protected. It is vital that the land use above the aquifer and elsewhere in the Takaka catchment that feeds into the aquifer be compatible with the ongoing health of the aquifer and the tiny creatures within it. At present 'land use' especially applies to intensive farming but the WCO will also protect the aquifer from other industries, now or in the future. The move to intensive irrigated farming during the last 10 years has an detrimental impact on the above health indicators. A related concern is that most of the water rising at the main Spring has been underground for 10 years! So we don't know what levels of pollution are already in the aquifer. What we do know is that if we wreck the priceless underground ecosystem within the aquifer there is nothing to replace it with. So the water in the main Spring today reflects the farming of a decade ago, when there was hardly any irrigation! Therefore, IMMEDIATE ACTION AND REMEDIES are required by this Government of New Zealand/ Aotearoa, to protect taonga such as this. Yours Sincerely, Vaughan Alexander Jackson BA LLB (Otago).

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 am unable physically to travel to Wellington. But I want my voice heard.