

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 1486

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Submitter Type: Individual

Source: Web Form

Overall Notes:

Clause

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

Notes

Section 199: To affirm that the area in question is beyond "Outstanding"

Clause

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

Position

Support

Notes

I have read the application with care. It resonates, is good and true, and inspires me. I cannot imagine more worthy long-term custodians/guardians of this outstanding feature. It would seem to be unwise, for our land and descendants, to put this area at risk for some (additional/transitory?) gains for the dairy industry. To quote from the application, Page 37 Item 119: "...The draft water conservation order, if approved, will provide sufficient certainty for the existing consent holder, whilst also providing for future low impact use and enjoyment of the waters by secondary industry such as tourism operations."....Item 121 sets it into a powerful context: "Overall, the potential limitations on future development opportunities by way of limiting abstractions is outweighed by the need to protect Te Waikoropupū springs for the benefit of future generations to use and enjoy."

Clause

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

Position

Grant the order

Notes

Section 199 (WCO), requires us to recognise and sustain "outstanding amenity or intrinsic values which are afforded by waters in their natural state.".....Well, I'm coming up to four-score years, and I've travelled our lands. This area, and "the intrinsic values" of these waters ~ Waikoropupu Springs, aquifers, rivers, tributaries ~ are beyond outstanding. They are unique. They are places of mystery, miracle and wonder. And it is not only the inspiration of visiting, worthwhile though it is, but knowing all there is cared for, enduring. Gift of a mountain, now a National Park, these waters, tunnels, aquifers, surrounds, combine to create a treasure of our land, and one to pass-on down generations...So the validity of this application is beyond question.....Benign, the stream in our garden, but now, after the recent flood, heavily burdened by silt and forestry-detritus. Recently I've studied a photo of the steep hillside above the headwaters of the stream, the native-bush being burned (1984), in preparation for pine-planting. I relate this questionable action to my understanding that not all is known about the processes at work in the Waikoropupu aquifer; there are mysteries the scientists cannot yet explain. Surely caution is appropriate, so we need not deal later with possibly unforeseen results of development, as forestry/Councils in our region now face.....Lastly, many surely grieve for the Canterbury streams and rivers now polluted by irrigation for dairying in marginal country. Let Waikoropupu Springs remain sanctuary for its life-forms, sacred waters to inspire us, so to respect mother-nature with wise long-term calls.

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