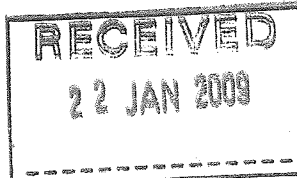


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FORM 3

SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT

Sections 49 and 57, Resource Management Act 1991

To Chairperson
Board of Inquiry-Water
Freepost Board of Inquiry- Water
c/o PO Box 10362
WELLINGTON 6143

This is a submission on the following proposed national policy statement:

PROPOSED NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT

The specific provisions of the proposal that our submission relates to are:

..... AS PER ATTACHMENT 1

Our submission is:

..... AS PER ATTACHMENT 1

We seek the following changes to the proposal:

..... AS PER ATTACHMENT 1

We do not wish to be heard in support of our submission.

Signature of submitter:

Handwritten signature of Hoani Langsbury

Hoani Langsbury
Chairperson

Date: 23 January 2009

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ATTACHMENT 1

[Our ref: SBC-08-37]

Objective 1 - Enabling well-being of people and communities

To ensure that Freshwater Resources are managed in a way that enables the people and communities of New Zealand to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being, and their health and safety.

The board supports this statement generally, provided each of the stated aspects of community well-being, as well as health and safety, are given equal weight in RMA determinations. The board is of the view that economic considerations are often given greater priority over the other objectives. This is short-sighted and can have greater negative economic consequences for communities in the future.

Objective 2 - Ensuring integrated management of effects on fresh water

To ensure effective integrated management (including by the co-ordination and sequencing of Land-use Development with investment in infrastructure for supply, storage and distribution of fresh water) of the effects of Land-use Development and discharges of contaminants on the quality and available quantity of fresh water.

The board believes that communities need to determine the most appropriate uses and values of their particular freshwater resources and ensure that there are no significant adverse effects on those resources from land use and discharges and other resource uses.

The term 'integrated management' is vague and subject to various interpretations, so it should be defined very firmly. The impacts of cumulative effects should also be noted in this objective.

Objective 3 - Improving the quality of fresh water

To ensure the progressive enhancement of the overall quality of Freshwater Resources, including actions to ensure appropriate Freshwater Resources can reach or exceed a swimmable standard.

It is time to consider why objectives such as this one are still necessary, because it would not be unreasonable to suggest that many of our freshwater bodies have reached their current state of degradation since the Resource Management Act became operational. The board advocates stronger wording for this objective. Instead of just "appropriate Freshwater Resources", all natural freshwater streams, rivers and lakes should "reach or exceed a swimmable standard". In addition, a timeline and monitoring goals are needed to ensure that the desired standard is achieved.

Objective 4 - Recognising and protecting life supporting capacity and ecological values

To ensure the life supporting capacity and ecological values of Freshwater Resources are recognised and protected from inappropriate -

- a. taking, use, damming or diverting of fresh water; and
- b. Land-use Development; and
- c. discharges of contaminants.

The board supports this objective, but it believes that all water bodies in New Zealand should be graded in terms of their significance at a national and a regional level. The objective can then be applied in accordance with that grading.

Objective 5 - Addressing freshwater degradation

To control the effects of Land-use Development and discharges of contaminants to avoid further degradation of Freshwater Resources.

The board fully supports this objective in principle. However, the board points out that the reality for smaller communities is that those sitting on Planning Committee hearing panels are often compromised by their association with those causing the degradation in the first place.

Objective 6 - Managing demand for fresh water

To ensure that demands (including social, economic and cultural demands) for fresh water are sustainably managed in a manner that has regard to the following:

- a. available supply of fresh water:
- b. the need to provide for resilience against the biophysical effects of climate change (such as through

infrastructure for supply, storage and distribution of fresh water):

c. the adverse effects that arise from those demands.

The board supports this objective but advocates an additional clause protecting the rights of future generations.

Objective 7 - Efficient use of fresh water

To ensure that allocated fresh water is used efficiently particularly by in terms of the following:

a. avoiding wastage:

b. avoiding excessive contamination:

c. facilitating opportunities to increase benefits from the use of fresh water.

The board supports this objective. We also support the principle of cost recovery, and believe that costs associated with the monitoring and management of water should be borne directly by the user.

Objective 8 - Iwi and hapu roles and Tangata Whenua values and interests.

To ensure that Iwi and hapu are involved, and Tangata Whenua values and interests are identified, in the management of Freshwater Resources including the matters specified in Objectives 1-8.

The board supports this objective, but notes that there are other parties who also have a considerable interest in water management, and who should also have similar opportunities to participate.

Objective 9 - Ensuring effective monitoring and reporting

To ensure that regional councils and territorial authorities undertake effective monitoring and reporting of the matters specified in Objectives 1-8.

The board supports this objective. As this is a national policy statement, a means to ensure consistency of approach is required. Additional resources from Central Government might be needed to help achieve this.