

Your submission to Clean Water

Balle Bros Group Limited (Brendan Balle)

166 Heights Road, Pukekohe

New Zealand

Clause

What do you think about the proposed amendments to the Freshwater NPS?

Notes

1. This submission is on behalf of Balle Bros Group Limited (BBGL) who support and oppose the proposed amendments to the NPS-FM in part. 2. Balle Bros specialise in the growing, packing, and marketing of high quality produce for both local and overseas markets. We currently farm extensively within the Auckland and Waikato regions, producing a range of crops such as Potatoes, Onions, Carrots, Cabbage, Cauliflower and Pumpkin. We also have a Dairy farm in the Waikato region. We provide employment for 300 full time staff and 170 part time/seasonal staff. 3. BBGL have commercially grown vegetables for four generations in the Auckland and Waikato Regions and understand the importance of sustainably managing, and having access to, clean fresh water. We are an environmentally conscientious company and have made significant investments to protect the environment and to sustainably manage our water resources. 4. We consider that the amendments to the NPS-FM fail to acknowledge the social and economic effects that may result by considering commercial vegetable production as an extractive industry. In fact, we struggle to understand how food production can be considered extractive when fresh produce is fundamental for good health and survival. 5. Fresh produce is a necessity and failing to adequately take this into account, and to provide for cultivation as a Te Mana o Te Wai value, may be detrimental to the health of our people and to community wellbeing, as well as to the New Zealand economy. 6. We are aware that the health sector is now promoting 10+ a day fresh fruit and vegetables, yet regulation proposes to inhibit resources being made available to meet the food demands of a growing population. 7. The northern Waikato in particular, offers unique growing conditions. Pukekohe and Pukekawa meet the demands of the domestic market for carrots, potatoes and leafy greens almost entirely for October, November and the early part of December each year. Leafy greens are near impossible to import due to short shelf life and where produce is imported, there are additional risks imposed on our consumers. It is therefore essential that adequate recognition and resource be made available to enable adequate production to occur within New Zealand. 8. Many families already struggle to feed their whanau with healthy fresh produce and we feel that considering cultivation as an extractive industry will only add to this burden. The production of fresh produce should be considered an essential service given its necessity for good health. In the absence of adequate access to local fresh produce, be it through availability or price, health implications could result, directly affecting community resilience. Resolution sought: 9. BBGL consider that Mahi mara/cultivation should be retained in the values listed under Te Mana o Te Wai. Conclusion 10. Balle Bros consider that cultivation is a core requirement to ensure the health and well being of our people and communities. We consider that this should be reflected within the amendments to the NPS-FM by retaining Mahi mara/cultivation in the values listed under Te Mana o Te Wai.