Your submission to Action for healthy waterways – consultation

Paula McKenzie, Tuatapere and Districts Promotions Incorporated (Paula McKenzie)

Reference no: 1151

Submitter Type: Unspecified / Other

Clause
Proposals as a whole - please refer to questions 1-3 on page 19 of the discussion document

Notes
We think the proposals set out will NOT stop further degradation within the Waiau Catchment area while the Manapouri Power Scheme remains exempt from the NPS-FM. Refer Question 19

Clause
Exceptions for major hydropower schemes - please refer to question 19 on page 36 of the discussion document

Notes
The Tuatapere and Districts Promotion Inc opposes the Manapouri Power Scheme being exempt from the National Policy statement on Fresh Water Management. Exempting the Manapouri Power Scheme from the NPS-FM effectively shuts out the Tuatapere and Districts community from any alternative use of Waiau River water in stream (eg recreation and tourism) and out of stream (eg farm use, irrigation). It also shuts out our community from any future conversations regarding the health of our Waiau River. Unlike other hydro schemes, the water used by the Manapouri Power Scheme is never returned to the Waiau Catchment. Instead, up to 95% of the Waiau River's flow is discharged to Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound. Our community in the Waiau Catchment area cannot be obligated to fix the degradation of our river that has occurred to date solely because the Manapouri Power Scheme has been historically granted excessive rights to the water. These rights preclude any other uses of the water. This water is not used for energy security of New Zealand. Recently we have been awarded Great Walk status for our local community built track The Hump Ridge Track. But we are very confused. On one hand we are encouraged by government to promote our area and to respect the mana of our fresh water, but on the other hand the damage that is being done to our river ecosystem and surrounds is being ignored by government. Science suggests a minimum flow of 35 cumecs would provide for the ecological health of the Waiau river but while the Manapouri Hydro Scheme remains exempt from the NPS-FM there is little chance of that happening. The flow is 16 cumecs at the moment, the difference is about 3% of the 550 cumecs that Meridian is consented to use for power generation. (Ref - Claire Jordan, a Planner and Environmental Scientist in the Waiau Rivercare Group) Tuatapere and Districts Promotion Inc asks that the exemption for the MPS be removed so that our Waiau community can at least try to meet the national standards for swimming and ecosystem health.