Your submission to Action for healthy waterways – consultation

Jean Willis, Nelson Trout Fishing Club

Submitter Type: Unspecified / Other

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

Notes
The Nelson Trout Fishing Club, is a club for everyone who has a passion for trout fishing in the Nelson region, has a paid up membership of 85 members. Our website and Facebook pages are widely read, and our club’s newsletter has a wide distribution.

The club membership is inclusive of both men and woman, and represents a good cross section of freshwater anglers in the Nelson and Tasman districts. The rivers in the Nelson and Marlborough region are being exploited to their detriment. It is our experience that once beautiful healthy rivers and streams now are now longer able to sustain benthic life. Rivers we once fished, swam in, and drunk the water we no longer can. We protested about the impact of industrialised scale dairying in the early 2000 this resulted in some farmers reacting by banning anglers from their properties. Local rivers such as the Motueka, Buller have a Water Conservation Order which was granted after wide consultation and with the community recognising the value of river. Sadly, the WCO has not protected the river and even the Motueka is under treat from water abstraction and nutrient overload. The Buller, once the premier brown trout fishery now barely has any fish. The water from Waimea River has been grossly over allocated to the point where a dam has to be built to maintain water during the summer period. The scallop fishery in Tasman and Golden bays has collapsed mainly due to sedimentation from forestry. We have observed the impact of sedimentation from land clearing operations and watched bands of separation point granite grit sandblast its way down the Wangapeka then Motueka River destroying benthic life on the way depleting a world class fishery that has taken years to recover. Rivers like the Riwaka, Rai, Opour, Pelorus, Matai are just a fraction of the fishery they were. The common cause of the decline in water quality and the fisheries is the intensification of land use, with the resulting abstraction of water, sediment run off, nutrient run off and faecal pollution. We cannot continue to abuse our waterways for short term economic gains. We have a system that allows private profit with public debt, to the detriment of our community. Our health is being jeopardised by nutrient overloads and pollution. In places the water is not safe to drink, other places unable to swim in the river, stream or lake and the benthic life is changed to the detriment all. River that were once abundant with fish now are barren. We support the governments proposed standards on fresh water, and specifically we support:- • Nationally-set standards not industry set standards. • Enforceable regulations, self-regulation does not work. • Nitrogen cap • Recognition of trout and salmon in the proposed fresh water policy. Jean Willis Secretary

Clause
Impacts and implementation - please refer to questions 4-6 on page 19 of the discussion document

Notes
Must be regulated. self regulation does not work

Clause
Water commission and other comments - please refer to questions 7-8 on page 19 of the discussion document

Notes
Trout and Salmon to be recognised.