Your submission to Action for healthy waterways – consultation

Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust

Reference no: 1745

Submitter Type:  Unspecified / Other

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clause</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposals as a whole - please refer to questions 1-3 on page 19 of the discussion document</td>
<td>Freshwater planning changes: Support – The changes proposed in the essential freshwater package go some way to implementing the objectives for Tangaroa-ki-uta/freshwater in the rohe of Taranaki Iwi. Taiao, Taiora is an Iwi Planning Document for Taranaki Iwi. Specific outcomes for Tangaroa-ki-uta/freshwater are articulated for the rohe of Taranaki Iwi in this document, including target dates of 2040 for all awa to be safe for swimming and fishing; and available for customary cleansing practices by 2060. The aspirations in the proposals to significantly improve water quality within a generation aligns to these timeframes. Whilst Te Kāhui o Taranaki Iwi (TKOT) are concerned about the removal of the avenue for appeals that are currently part of the planning process, the need to urgently improve the state of Tangaroa-ki-uta/freshwater is understood. Restricting appeals to points of law may result in important technical detail being missed, however given the urgency of making progress toward the objectives set out in Taiao, Taiora.</td>
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<td>Te Mana o Te Wai - please refer to questions 9-12 on page 36 of the discussion document</td>
<td>Te Mana o Te Wai: Support - TKOT strongly support Te Mana o Te Wai being the basis for all changes to the current system of Freshwater management. Specifically, TKOT support the requirement for regional councils to give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai when implementing the NPS-FW. The requirement for iwi/hapū involvement in development of regional policy statement so that it reflects our long-term aspirations for our awa. Ensuring the regional direction set for freshwater is given effects to in lower-order plans implemented by other local authorities (incl. District Plans) is also critical. While TKOT strongly support Te Mana o Te Wai as a basis for all policies and decisions about freshwater management; it is essential that this is implemented throughout the rest of the proposed changes (i.e. around exemptions for certain activities like large scale hydro schemes). Requiring Local Authorities to give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai will require significant contribution from iwi/hapū across the planning framework. Coherent implementation across the designation process, subdivision and land-use consent processes, as well as monitoring and enforcement functions to ensure there are no gaps at time of implementation will rely heavily on the on-going engagement of iwi/ hapū as cultural experts. Integrated management is an outcome set out in the NPS-FM; iwi authorities will generally be the only entity that will see all resource management processes to provide for Te Mana o Te Wai. TKOT has also considered the hierarchy of obligations (i.e. Te Mana o Te Wai – then essential human needs and then consumption and use), and how these will be managed when there are conflict between the health of the waterway and the other uses has not been articulated enough in the discussion paper. This will be crucial if the objective of giving effect to the Mana o Te Wai is to be achieved. This is an important issue in Taranaki as the Resource Consents for the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) water take to supply drinking water is being renewed. Currently the NPDC has stated that their legal requirement to supply safe water to the NPDC residents will not allow them to take the effect of the flow into account when they renew these Consents. They acknowledge that the current take levels are impacting on Te Mana o Te Wai and the health of the Waiwakaiho but are stating that their legal requirement means that at least in the short term they are unable to do anything about this. TKOT recommend that the specific wording around the compulsory national value of mahinga kai should include the use of mouri – i.e. as in ‘kei te ora te mouri – the mouri of the place is intact’. The inclusion of mouri is important to TKOT as it is one of the key freshwater values in the Taiao, Taiora. Mouri is also the principle Cultural Health Indicator that TKOT currently monitor for our fresh water. TKOT suggests that this broadens the meaning of a straight mahinga kai value as this could be interpreted quite narrowly and not support the improvement or maintenance of the mouri or health of our awa.</td>
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<td>New Māori value and new threatened species values - please refer to questions 13-16 on page 36 and question 22 on page 52 of the discussion document</td>
<td>Broaden national direction to include a more holistic view of ecosystem health: Support - this aligns with the outcomes set out in Taiao, Taiora. It is important to recognise each awa as a tūpuna of Taranaki Iwi and consider its health or mouri as a whole from its beginning to when it enters the sea.</td>
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<td>Exceptions for major hydropower schemes - please refer to question 19 on page 36 of the discussion document</td>
<td>Exemption of Major hydro-electrical schemes: Oppose – TKOT do not support the proposed exceptions for major hydro schemes. While we realise the importance of these schemes especially due to their contribution to the government’s commitment to climate</td>
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change, we feel that exempting them entirely goes against the aim of allowing iwi and community increased say in the freshwater of their regions. This exemption does not allow the iwi/communities affected by these schemes to have input into resource consent conditions/the designation process etc. The National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2016 provides for these schemes to some degree already. Providing this exemption dilutes the focus of the D-NPS-FM 2019 in giving effect to Te Mana o Te Wai.

Clause
Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment attributes - please refer to questions 20-21 and 30-35 on pages 52 and 53 of the discussion document

Notes
New Attributes to be monitored and maintained/improved: Support Bottom lines for nutrient pollution – TKOT support the aim of prevention of pollution rather than continuing to concentrate on remediation after the event. TKOT support the introduction of new bottom lines for both phosphorus and nitrogen; however, more work is required to determine the best way of setting limits and monitoring them to ensure that they are applied with local context around the relationship iwi/hapū have with a waterbody. TKOT acknowledge the amount of work that the Science and Technical Advisory Group completed to inform the decisions made about the bottom lines. TKOT support the measures and bottom lines that they have suggested in their report. Fish and Macroinvertebrate numbers – TKOT support taonga species such as fish being included in ecosystem health monitoring and note that this aligns with the provisions of Taiao, Taiora. River ecosystem metabolism – TKOT support the inclusion of this attribute in monitoring. Measuring the metabolism (via the suggested method of measuring grams of dissolved oxygen per square metre per day) will significantly add to the information available about the health of any awa and so better inform any decisions about consent conditions and improvements needed. Dissolved oxygen in rivers and lakes – TKOT support that this is added to how river health is measured and monitored and ask that the recommendations for how to measure this suggested by the Science and Technical Advisory Group be adopted. Mahinga Kai or other cultural value – it is anticipated that once the compulsory cultural value is identified, and associated monitoring/measurement of health will be identified to provide assessments of performance against that value.

Clause
Ecosystem health policies - please refer to questions 23-29 on pages 52 and 53 of the discussion document

Notes
Protect urban and rural wetlands and streams: Support: Wetland protection – TKOT strongly support the direction that no more wetlands be drained or developed and support the size limit identified in the discussion document (0.5 ha). The loss of wetlands through development has been identified by Taranaki iwi as having had a major impact on the quality of freshwater in our rohe. Destruction of wetlands has been like removing the kidneys of our awa. This has resulted in the disruption of the normal range of river flows for our awa. This has also resulted in the destruction of large areas of habitat for our important taonga species. Urban stream protection – TKOT strongly support the direction that there be no more piping or infilling of streams within the urban areas; but caution that wetlands, manga/small streams and awa within an urban area cannot be seen as ‘stormwater infrastructure’ and that urban design and development be undertaken in such a way that gives effect to the broad range of ecological, social and cultural functions these water bodies play (ensuring this national direction devolves down to district plans, and infrastructure standards is required). Protect threatened indigenous freshwater species: Support in Part: TKOT support the focus on protection of indigenous freshwater species but disagree with the inclusion of the qualifier that the species need to have been identified as having a threatened status. For Taranaki iwi all of our species are taonga that need to be afforded the same levels of protection. TKOT support the approach that the ecosystem is protected as a whole as this preserves the importance of all species and recognises their interaction with each other. Provide for fish passage: Support – TKOT support the removal of any barriers to fish passage and acknowledge the progress that the NPDC, South Taranaki District Council and the Taranaki Regional Council have made towards achieving this in Taranaki through the consenting process.

Clause
Ecosystem health attributes - please refer to questions 20-21 and 39 on pages 52 and 53 of the discussion document

Notes
Support as follows: Fish and Macroinvertebrate numbers – TKOT support taonga species such as fish being included in ecosystem health monitoring and note that this aligns with the provisions of Taiao, Taiora. River ecosystem metabolism – TKOT support the inclusion of this attribute in monitoring. Measuring the metabolism (via the suggested method of measuring grams of dissolved oxygen per square metre per day) will significantly add to the information available about the health of any awa and so better inform any decisions about consent conditions and improvements needed. Dissolved oxygen in rivers and lakes – TKOT support that this is added to how river health is measured and monitored and ask that the recommendations for how to measure this suggested by the Science and Technical Advisory Group be adopted. Mahinga Kai or other cultural value – it is anticipated that once the compulsory cultural value is identified, and associated monitoring/measurement of health will be identified to provide assessments of performance against that value.

Clause
Swimming - please refer to question 36 on page 53 of the discussion document

Notes
Support in part – TKOT suggest that there are a number of challenges around where and how this will be measured and note that activities where contact can occur year-round (e.g. kaukau/swimming & Mahinga Kai). The assumption that swimming or contact only occurs in the summer months is incorrect. Broaden the monitoring period associated with swimming into other seasons, and make consequential changes to the minimum standards for monitoring.
Clause
Flows and metering - please refer to questions 37 and 38 on page 53 of the discussion document

Notes
Improvements to setting minimum water flows and reporting on water use: Support in Part - Water allocation – clarifying requirements for minimum flows. This issue has come up recently in Taranaki with the upcoming renewal of the NPDC consent to supply water to the district. TKOT suggest that the recommendations are clearer that mātauranga Māori values and monitoring should be included in any assessment model for establishing a minimum flow for any awa in line with the aim of recognising te Mana o te Wai. Requirements for measuring water flows – TKOT support this and suggest that real time reporting of water use should be implemented as a priority. Addition of a requirement to include mātauranga Māori and assessment for establishing a minimum flow.

Clause
Stormwater and wastewater - please refer to questions 46-50 on page 62 of the discussion document

Notes
National Environmental Standard for Wastewater Discharges and Overflows: Support in Part TKOT support the implementation of a national environmental standard for wastewater discharges and overflows as this would ensure national consistency and streamline the consenting process. TKOT recommend that the NES specifically includes measures any discharges or overflows using mātauranga Māori is included, noting iwi in Taranaki do not support the discharge of any wastewater (treated or untreated) to water and are asking that these discharges be made to land instead. Addition of a clause in the NES that articulates the effect that wastewater discharges and overflows have on the mouri of the receiving environment as key matters of assessment at time of consent. As an example our mahinga kai resource piharau, tuna, inanga are under stress as are our takutai resources from paua to kutai and other native species when discharges are released. Minimum stormwater standards: Support in Part - TKOT support the development of a Risk Management Plan and note that the engagement of cultural expertise through the development of any RMP would be required to ensure te mana o te wai is at the heart of any plan. Similarly, whilst an RMP will go some way to addressing issues related to stormwater in the rohe of Taranaki iwi, greater emphasis on Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), and ensuring developments provide for this at a site level, as opposed to current stormwater management systems of piping water as fast as possible into the nearest waterbody. Update the requirements of any Risk Management Planning process to include the engagement of cultural expertise specifically, and to priorities WSUD in the first instance.

Clause
Restricting further intensification - please refer to questions 51-53 on page 80 of the discussion document

Notes
Support – TKOT support the restriction of further intensification of rural land use. This is a key issue within the rohe of Taranaki iwi. TKOT also note the importance of Manga/small streams, many of which flow through tile drains and the critical role that these play in overall catchment health.

Clause
Farm plans - please refer to questions 54-57 on page 80 of the discussion document

Notes
Support in Part - TKOT support the development of site-specific farm plans. It is understood that there are a number of industry templates available, but caution that these will require specific information regarding the outcomes required for specific catchments and waterbodies, and subsequently different technical solutions may be required. This includes mātauranga Māori and the engagement of cultural expertise to guide these plans to ensure Te Mana o Te Wai informs their development. Relief sought - Ask that efforts are made to keep the cost of these plans to a minimum to ensure that they are supported by farmers and growers. Ensure that minimum farm planning requirements include the engagement of cultural expertise to inform their development.

Clause
Immediate action to reduce nitrogen loss - please refer to questions 58-64 on page 80 of the discussion document

Notes
The current schedule does not currently include any awa within the rohe of Taranaki iwi.

Clause
Excluding stock from waterways - please refer to questions 65-68 on pages 80 and 81 of the discussion document

Notes
Support in Part - TKOT strongly support the proposals to exclude stock from waterways through regulations and farm plans. TKOT recommend that the inclusion of incentives to plant the riparian areas of the fenced waterways are included. This is already a requirement of the Taranaki Regional Council Riparian planting scheme that is supported by Fonterra and has been cemented in via the Dairying Clean Water Accord. The added benefits that riparian planting provide to water quality through shading of the waterways appears to be underestimated in this proposal. Incentives could be through carbon credits or the form of a rebate on any proposed carbon levy. It also seems out of step that the standards being set by Central Government to achieve better water quality are less than what is currently required for the dairy farmers of Taranaki. TKOT note that according to the Science and Technical Advisory Group that shading of waterways has a direct impact on their dissolved oxygen levels which is one of the attributes that are included in how it is proposed to measure the ecosystem health of Tangaroa-ki-uta/freshwater. TKOT recommend the inclusion of drains into this management, especially where these are connected into more natural waterways. The logic to exclude drains from fencing requirements where they are connected is not clear.
Clause
Controlling intensive winter grazing - please refer to questions 69-70 on page 81 of the discussion document

Notes
Support - While not a key problem in the rohe of Taranaki iwi, TKOT recognise the need to control intensive winter grazing, restrict feedlots and reduce pollution from stock holding areas. TKOT concur with the measures outlined in the discussion document include a fair and reasonable method to achieve this.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.