To Whom it May Concern

Re: West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board Freshwater Submission

The West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board (the Board) was established under the Conservation Act 1987.

The Board has a range of powers and functions, under the Conservation Act 1987, as well as under other conservation related legislation. These functions include 6M (d) (2) to advise the Conservation Authority or the Director-General on any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board. Under the Conservation Act, Section 6N Conservation Boards have the power to: appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board’s functions.

The Board supports the New Zealand Conservation Authorities’ (NZCA) perspective on fresh water environments:

- The requirement for a “headwaters to sea” integrated approach (including estuaries and immediately affected inshore marine environments).
- Emphasis on the diverse range of freshwater ecosystem types (rivers, streams, lakes, hydrologically connected groundwater, spring-fed streams, wetlands, estuaries, coastal lakes).
- Healthy freshwater ecosystems (maintaining the diversity of in-stream habitat types, riparian margins, natural flow regimes, a high standard of water quality).
- Preservation of indigenous fish species.
- Protection of indigenous aquatic flora and fauna (additional to fish species), as part of the food web.
- Recognition of the ecosystem services that public conservation land provides to fresh water ecosystems beyond the boundary of such lands.
- Public accessibility of fresh water resources.
- Public health issues associated with degraded water quality.
- Permanent protection of fresh water bodies.

The Board supports the Department of Conservation’s ‘Stretch Goal’: 50 freshwater ecosystems restored from ‘mountains to the sea’. If this goal is to be achieved by the stated date of 2025 then the National Policy on Freshwater Management will need strong rules and enforceable limits and practices.

The Board supports the direction of the Action for Healthy Waterways document, the Draft National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and the Proposed National Environmental Standards for Freshwater. The Board believes that if well implemented and appropriately funded these
reforms will lead to an improvement in quality throughout our freshwater eco systems. A strong overview of regional policies and consent conditions will be needed if the reforms are to succeed.

The Board fully endorses and supports the detailed submission of the NZCA on these reforms.

Yours sincerely

[Name]
Chairperson
West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board