Submission on Action for healthy waterways: A discussion document on national direction for our essential freshwater

To: Ministry for the Environment (via email consultation.freshwater@mfe.govt.nz)

Name of submitter: DB Breweries Limited

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Summary

DB Breweries is supportive of the proposed plans to improve and maintain the quality of New Zealand waterways. It’s important that any proposed changes consider the economic impact they may have on communities, particularly those in regional areas. Further engagement and collaboration with business groups in affected catchment areas is also needed, to ensure the business community is able to plan ahead.

About DB Breweries

1. This submission is made by DB Breweries Limited and its associated and subsidiary companies (DB) in response to the proposals set out within the Action for healthy waterways discussion document.

2. DB is a wholly owned subsidiary of HEINEKEN NV. DB’s core manufacturing business is the production and sale of beer and cider, both locally and internationally. DB also produces a small number of ready to drink products (RTDs) and non-alcoholic beverages. DB’s products are produced from facilities located in Otahuhu, Mangatainoka, Nelson, Greymouth, Paraparaumu, Wellington and Timaru. DB is also involved in the hospitality industry through its joint venture with the Joylab Hospitality Group, which operates 23 bars in the wider Auckland region.

3. DB takes a holistic approach to watershed health through water stewardship, waste water treatment and water efficiency in production. Over the past decade, DB has reduced its water consumption in production by 25% against a backdrop of increasing production complexity and volumes. In 2018, our water consumption intensity for production was 3.18 hectolitres of water per hectolitre of product produced, which is below HEINEKEN’s global average of 3.5 h/hl. Our goal is to reduce our consumption further to 2.9 hl/hl by the end of 2020.

DB supports improvements in water quality in New Zealand

4. DB supports, in principle, the proposed targets and actions set out in the discussion document to improve and maintain water quality in New Zealand. Clean and accessible water is crucial to brewing high quality beer and cider. Water fills around 95% of finished beer products and is a key part of our supply chain, from growing raw materials like hops and malt, to cleaning our plant equipment. All of our sites are located within close proximity to local waterways.

Consideration of economic impacts on communities

5. The proposals outlined in the discussion document will have an economic impact on the communities in which DB operates, many of which are smaller, regional communities. It’s important that the planning process considers these impacts and how communities and businesses will be supported to adapt and implement the proposed changes. Further
information about the level of central government support is also needed. DB is committed to supporting its local communities, and this includes engaging and educating communities in water stewardship programmes around its breweries and cidery.

**Engagement and collaboration with business for future planning**

6. DB supports a collaborative approach to developing and implementing water quality improvements. This should include consultation with businesses within affected water catchment areas. Businesses will require predictability for planning purposes, including any need to develop new infrastructure to meet proposed water quality improvements. DB would like to highlight the importance of any private investment being supplemented and supported by investment from both central and local government.

**Consideration of existing consents**

7. Existing ECAN consents in the Timaru district, where our DB Draught Brewery is located, run through until 2035. Further information and consultation is required around the proposed timeframes for local government to implement changes resulting from this proposal, and how this will affect pre-existing consents.