Your submission to Action for healthy waterways – consultation

Tinui Volunteer Rural Fire Force (Donna Schofield)

Reference no: 243

Submitter Type: Unspecified / Other

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

Notes
GENERAL COMMENT - I am the Rural Controller of the Tinui Volunteer Rural Fire Force (Fire and Emergency New Zealand). I am putting forward this submission on behalf of my volunteer rural fire brigade of 21 active members. We strive to help and protect our community from damage and loss from fire and also assist in numerous emergency situations. We wish to raise our concerns on how we think some of the proposal will increase the risk of fire in our area and also that the proposal WILL cause us flooding events and emergencies. We believe there will be threat to human life, from flooding, fire and increased suicidal intent by some of the proposals, including cost, pressure, enforcement of restrictions and from lack of understanding of rural practices, isolation and challenges. 3) Restricting grazing on river banks and creating waterway setbacks will create unmanaged wastelands for grasses and weeds to flourish. Thus, narrowing and clogging the waterways, causing flood risks and endangering human life and property in our area. History has shown us that if our local rivers are not properly managed (from trees, sediment, debris and grasses) flooding occurs, from slowed water flow or escape.

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

Notes
4) Our fire brigade opposes blanket grazing restrictions with regard to fire risk (increased fine (fire) fuels on farm land/waterways, to an already high risk area of heavy fuels - forestry plantations). This action will cause flooding events, civil defence emergencies, risk of loss of life and property.

Clause
Flows and metering - please refer to questions 37 and 38 on page 53 of the discussion document

Notes
37) Water flows definitely need to be monitored, for volume and rate of flow. We need to be assured that when we have a big rain event that water (and debris, trees etc) is able to get away, as to not cause a civil defence emergency or increase effects of flooding. Our regional council, and the Tinui Flood Protection Scheme, has put in a lot of work, especially since the 1991 flood, after they learnt from what caused the water to build up; unmanaged riverbanks, grasses, trees and debris. Prior to the 1953 establishment of the Flood Protection Scheme, the Tinui area would regularly flood, 6-8 times a year.

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

Notes
65) No. Fire Risk, more fine and medium fire fuels for fire ignition and increased risk and rate of spread to housing and pine forest plantations which often boundary waterways. Civil Defence emergency, from flooding, endangering life, property and community. 67) A blanket approach of imposed regulations will have huge consequences to human (and stock) life, also land and property/homes. Will cause flooding and increase risk of fires. 68) Stock should be able to graze “non-intensively” as a management tool to mitigate flooding and fire risk.