

Submission to the National Policy Statement on Fresh Water Management

Submitter name: Rhonda Aorangi Kawiti

Companies/ Hapu: Te Waiariki, Ngati Korora, Ngati Taka Hapu Iwi, Ngati Kawiti, Ngati Hine Te Orewai, Te Kapotai, Ngati Rahiri, Ngapuhi, Tuwharetoa, Ngai Tuhoe, Te Whakatohea, Ngati Awa, Te Whanau-A-Apanui, Ngati Porou.

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Submission issues:

1. The proposed standards for swimming do not go far enough in addressing the state of our waterways throughout Aotearoa/ New Zealand.
2. Current evidence on the ground regarding water quality surrounding and in our waterways gives a grim and irreproachable level of degradation which would disgust most people with a reasonable conscience for our collective environment and people wishing to utilise our waterways in many varied and reasonable ways:
 - 2.1. The sight of the waterways and their surrounds is disgraceful- pugged, bogged and polluted by cows, their faeces, urine and other additional sediment stirred up by their mainly unfettered access to trampling our waterways and their immediate and extended surrounds. NOT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT, MARRING OUR LANDSCAPE!
 - 2.2. The smell of nitrification, putrefaction and the pooling of all those destructive chemicals present in the waterways environ in such high concentrations is preventive to ordinary citizens of Aotearoa and our manuhiri enjoying the naturally purifying, peace and calming effects of water in its natural state- called wai maori in te reo rangatira. NOT HEALING OR PURIFYING!
 - 2.3. The putrid effects of dead carcasses left to rot for long periods, ruining downstream environs for many many kilometres, litres of affected water and dying natural species. KILLING THE ENVIRONMENT in particular the nursery grounds and harbours which repopulate our fishing stocks for recreational, commercial and survival fishing!
 - 2.4. The huge loss of economic and social value though the downstream effects of loss of reputation in regard to our "clean green" image being eroded and destroyed both locally and globally. REDUCED INCENTIVE TO VISIT AND CONSERVE OUR ONCE PRISTINE SITES OF SIGNIFICANCE!
 - 2.5. The massive loss in plant and other natural resources such as native fish, invertebrates and tuna to produce such exorbitant quantities of dairy products at such huge cost to the plant matter which is required to sustain our world and our existence. DOWNSTREAM LOSSES TO ALL SECTORS INCLUDING DAIRY, AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE!
 - 2.6. Almost complete inaccessibility to the waterways we are deemed to collectively own and look after. NO EFFECTIVE WAY TO ACCESS, MONITOR AND IMPROVE WATERWAYS!
3. The soft guidelines and "requirements" for fencing are almost completely ineffective in most situations- not far enough from the waterway and not planted in suitable plant species to aid in soaking up the toxins produced by farming, mono cultural forestry and other environmentally destructive industries.

4. Guidelines for urban management of waterways are inadequate, inappropriate and totally culturally insensitive.
5. Any changes to: “provide for economic well-being including productive economic opportunities” is far too open ended and is likely to give regional councils leeway to give too much weight to economic considerations.
6. Minimal resourcing for monitoring and mitigation for locals, including tangata whenua.
7. Fines made for breaches of the RMA do not return to assist mitigating the damage to local environments.
8. It is a cop out saying: avoid, remedy and mitigate adverse effects! How exactly can this even be realistic when the effects of pollution and destruction of waterways may take many years to become obviously apparent in effect and origin and be almost untraceable and untreatable over such undefinable source and time frames??? By the time an effect is felt, the causative factors and people involved may have shifted/ changed ownership/ management.
9. These changes and amendments do nothing to address current and historic breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, thereby causing further contemporary breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
10. These breaches include:
 - 10.1. Those expressed in the WAI 1040 Report of the Waitangi Tribunal 2014:
He Whakaputanga me Te Tiriti o Waitangi regarding the truth reiterated by the collective tribes and hapu of Ngapuhi and the Tribunal, that: Ngapuhi never ceded our Sovereignty.
 - 10.2. Lack of proper consultation and consent by the Crown/ New Zealand government with tangata whenua/ Maori.

Current timeframes do not allow for additional evidence to be presented to you at this time or in this forum. I would however be happy to provide further evidence and rationale for our collective concerns regarding this policy statement at a later date both orally and in writing at an oral submission hearing.

Heoi ano mo tenei wa...nga mihi nui ki a koutou mo tenei wahi pito korero kia hokia ano a tetahi ano wa.

Na Aorangi Kawiti

Hapu/ Iwi/ Whanau/ Marae Trust/ Committee- SECRETARY for the following organisations

- Te Waiariki, Ngati Korora/ Ngati Taka Hapu Iwi Trust
- Maori Women’s Welfare League Whareora Branch
- Waiomio Maori Committee
- Kawiti Marae Committee
- Kawiti Whanau Trust