

Mareikura Waka Ama Club Incorporated Whakatauki:

‘Kawea nga tino tikanga o o tatau tipuna na ratau aua tikanga I kawe mai I runga I a Nukutaimemeha, I a Nukutere, I a Tereanini, I a Horouta hoki / Uphold the best traditions of our ancestors who came here on the Nukutaimemeha, Nukutere, Tereanini and Horouta waka’.

As the first waka ama club to start in Aotearoa/New Zealand we have a role of kaitiaki / custodian for all waterways. To preserve the integrity of the water is to ensure sustainability of whanau wellbeing ‘mo ake tonu’ / forever.

Mareikura Waka Ama Club Incorporated supports:

Rigorous standards for ALL rivers and lakes that ensure they are safe for primary contact recreation, and ecologically healthy.

The ability to safely participate in primary contact recreation activities on ALL rivers and lakes as this is a Kiwi birthright that needs to be preserved for future generations.

We need rivers that are ecologically healthy, to support the native species and ecosystems that need clean water to survive and thrive.

We support strong leadership from Government to recognise and provide for Te Mana o Te Wai.

We want the wording to be changed back to “provided for” and therefore our Maori provisions under Te Mana o Te Wai restored.

100% of rivers and lakes swimmable by 2030.

Mareikura Waka Ama Club Incorporated wants to see the following changes made to the proposed amendments to the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management:

Human Health for Recreation (Swimmability):

We oppose the proposed amendments to the Human Health for Recreation attribute table, which would weaken the standard for primary contact recreation. The E.coli attributes need to be strengthened.

That the new primary contact E.coli attribute table apply to all waterbodies, regardless of size.

We request a pre-election commitment from the Government that, when the National Policy Statement is finalised, it will include specific swimmability targets for each region, which can be independently enforced on councils by the Environment Court.

Ecological Health:

We support the requirement for regional councils to adopt a Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI) score of 80 as a minimum threshold, and to develop an action plan to improve the MCI score to above this threshold, or when monitoring shows there is a downwards trend in the MCI, to reverse that trend if a waterway's MCI score is low or declining – as recommended by the Land and Water Forum.

We also support the adoption of all the recommendations made by the Land and Water Forum to assist regional councils to limit two key nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorous, in our rivers and lakes.

Targets and timeframes: The NPS should specifically include in its objectives and policies the requirement for regional councils to meet water quality targets within specified timeframes.

Economic considerations: We oppose the proposed amendments to Objective A2 and B1 referring to provision for economic wellbeing. If references or new provisions are to be included these must be drafted to ensure that water quality based on ecosystem and human health is the first priority. We oppose the inclusion of any new test that requires a balancing of environmental considerations against economic ones.

The National Policy Statement should require regional councils to identify and protect any sites on smaller streams that are, or may historically, have been used for swimming.

We request a bottom line standard for E.coli that applies to all waterways to protect human health. That the target of 80% swimmable by 2030 should be brought forward to 2025, and to assist with this, the Government should increase the amount of money in its Freshwater Improvement Fund. We request that the LWF recommendations for ecological health are included in the National Policy Statement.

Livestock & Fencing:

We support effective riparian plantings and fence minimum setbacks as a mandatory requirement. We request the minimum setback be extended from 1 metre in cropping paddocks, to 5 metres. We request the National Policy Statement to require not just fencing, but also the planting of a streamside buffer strip inside the fence.

The National Policy Statement should make clear that councils are obliged to give effect to its provisions by notifying plan changes within three years.

Regional councils should submit maps showing their proposed FMUs to the Secretary for the Environment for sign-off as being in accordance with Ministry guidelines.

References to economic well-being should be clarified so that water quality, environmental and human health are given the first priority.

Sec 104 should be amended, or some other method found, to ensure that limits mean limits.

Exceptions to the limits framework should only be decided by central government, using Appendix 3.

A decision tool should be specified for assessing where the fencing requirement applies

Sediment Issues:

That the LWF continue its work on sediment, zinc and copper, and that its recommendations are included when the National Policy Statement is finalised.

We request that regional councils measure and monitor sediment attributes.