

Kenepuru & Central Sounds



Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.

Freshwater Consultation 2016

Ministry for the Environment
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Ross Withell

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22 April 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission – Freshwater Consultation 2016

This submission is made on behalf of the Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association.

Who we are

The Association was established in 1991 and currently has over 220 household members whose residents live full time or part time in the Kenepuru and Pelorus Sounds. The Association's objects include, among others, to coordinate dealings with central and local government and promote the interests of residents of Kenepuru Sound and adjacent areas and to promote and act in the best interests of residents, ratepayers and persons associated with the Kenepuru and Central Sounds area. AGMs of the Association are well attended.

Why are we submitting?

Whilst the Marlborough Sounds is more immediately associated with the marine space, in reality many Sounds' residents rely on freshwater sources eg springs, creeks and rivers for their freshwater supplies. Further, two significant rivers (Pelorus and Kaituna) drain in to our catchment and we have become increasingly aware of the need to monitor the health of these rivers for a variety of reasons.

Overall, the Association feels that in the 21st century we can and should be as a developed nation doing much better in terms of maintaining the health and wellbeing of this much treasured and vital resource (Te Mana o te Wai in the terminology of the Consultation Document).

Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.

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Background

A beacon of hope and reason (to us at least) in this sorry saga has been the work of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE). We **submit** that all the relevant Ministers and their officials and advisers should carefully read and implement the PCE's recommendations in her latest publication on this topic "Managing Water Quality: Examining the 2014 National Policy Statement".

Submission

The Consultation Document seeks submitters' responses to a number of detailed questions concerning aspects of the current 2014 National Policy Statement for Freshwater. Many of those questions are addressed by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment in her recommendations as set out in the paper referred to above. We specifically refer to her recommendations concerning maintaining and improving water quality, freshwater management units, exceptions to national bottom lines, taking a strategic approach, measuring ecosystem health – a bio-indicator, and estuaries.

The Association **submits in support** of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's recommendations in the context of the questions raised in the Consultation Document.

Conclusion

If there were to be a public hearing concerning the Consultation Document and submissions received, the Association would welcome the chance to talk to our submission at any such hearing.

Yours sincerely,


Ross Withell

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