

Date: Thursday 24 March 2016
Time: 6.30pm
Meeting Room: Waitakere Ranges Local Board Office
Venue: 39 Glenmall Place
Glen Eden

Waitākere Ranges Local Board OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

ITEM	TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
16	Waitakere Ranges Local Board submission on the Next steps for Fresh Water, Consultation Document	
A.	WRLB submission on the Next Steps for Fresh Water Consultation document	3

Waitakere Ranges Local Board Submission on the Next Steps for Fresh Water Consultation Document

24 March 2016

1. This submission is in response to the open invitation from the Ministry for the Environment to comment on the Next Steps for Fresh Water Consultation Document.
2. The Waitākere Ranges Local Board ('the local board') wishes to provide the following information and comment with respect to the consultation for inclusion with the Auckland Council submission.

Fresh water and our environment

3. The aspirational goal for water quality must be that all streams are 'swimmable'.
4. We agree that overall water quality should be maintained or improved within a freshwater management unit rather than within a region, insofar that the alternative is accepting that some areas should be relegated to being permanently of poor quality, which is not acceptable.
5. We defer to the questions raised by council in relation to how the attributes should be applied, or the values protected, in giving effect to the requirement to maintain or improve overall water quality.
6. We do not agree with applying lake attributes and national bottom lines to intermittently closing or opening lakes or lagoons. This should be dealt with at a regional level as different areas will have widely differing situations - .i.e. what is appropriate to Canterbury is unlikely to be appropriate to Auckland.
7. We agree with the proposed requirements and deadlines for excluding livestock from water bodies, but the timeframes should be brought forward with immediate effect.

Economic use of fresh water

8. We generally support the proposals outlines in questions 8 – 11, including development of standards for efficient water use, and good management practices for nitrogen discharge.
9. We believe that a broad range of people, including industry, must be involved in this to maintain a fair, and environmentally protective weighting.

Iwi rights and interest in fresh water

10. We support the council's submission in this area.
11. We support recognition of Treaty of Waitangi rights in relation to freshwater.

24 March 2016: Final

Freshwater funding

12. Any funding should support projects with clear environmental benefits, including to freshwater and stormwater.
13. The idea of retiring selected areas of farmland next to important waterways to create an environmental buffer that helps improve water quality is valid.

Other comments

14. Environmental benefits should be achieved through the regulatory and environmental requirements of Councils, but it should be left up to an individual council to implement national policy and to choose whether to go further – for example in relation to additional or shorter timeframes for planting.
15. We do not support government funding for irrigation of private land.
16. Livestock should be kept out of waterways, and the regional level is the right level for decisions to be made in relation to this.