

Proposed Natural Resources Plan:

Submitter:

Graham Evans

Submitter Number:

S86

Form 5: Submission on the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region
This is a submission on the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region pursuant to
Clause 6 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991

To: Freepost 3156
Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11646
Wellington 6142

Or email: regionalplan@gw.govt.nz

Wellington Regional
23 SEP 2015

Your details

Full name: Graham Evans

Organisation name:
(If applicable)

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Address and telephone no (if different from above):

Electronic communication

Wellington Regional Council has a preference for providing information about the Proposed Natural Resources Plan via email. We will send you updates on the process, information and provide you with details of any meetings and the hearing. Please tick here ☐ if you do not agree to receive communication via email.

Email address: grevans1@paradise.net.nz

Trade competition

☒ I/we **could not** gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission. [Go straight to **Your Submission**]

☐ I/we **could** gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
If you **could** gain an advantage please complete one of the following:

☐ I/we **are** directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of my submission that adversely affects the environment and does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

☐ I/we **are not** directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of my submission that adversely affects the environment and does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

Your submission

The specific provisions of the Proposed Natural Resources Plan that this submission relates to are:

The specific provision of the Proposed Natural Resources Plan that my submission relates to is (please specify the provision/ section number): Schedule C5 and specifically the specification of Kourarau Dam and inlet stream as a Category 1 site of natural significance	My submission on this provision is: →	<input type="checkbox"/> I support the provision <input type="checkbox"/> I oppose the provision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I wish to have the specific provision amended
	Reasons for my submission: →	My submission is based on the use of Lake Kourarau as a trout (and coarse) fishery of special significance in the North Island - and hence in New Zealand, and its management to maintain its unique place as a fishery. The lake is used by many groups for trout fishing especially, due to the actions of Fish and Game in (re)seeding the lake with hatchery bred fish, and then seeing those fish and their progeny successfully spawning in the inlet stream to maintain the population of fish. I note that the lake supported a trophy fishery in earlier years that failed due to inappropriate management of lake levels and fishing pressure. The new dam and the maintenance of a higher lake level should ensure that low lake levels are no longer a

		<p>problem and a new trophy fishery may well develop.</p> <p>The people who fish the lake include individuals and the members of the following clubs as a minimum:</p> <p>Wairarapa branch of Wellington Fish and Game Club</p> <p>Wellington Fly Fishers Club</p> <p>Hutt Valley Fly Fishers</p> <p>NZ Sports Fly Fishing Society</p> <p>I note that the latter organisation has used the lake for competition to help select the NZ team for the World, Commonwealth and Oceania teams and intends to do so again in future due to the unique opportunity it offers as being similar to many fisheries found in competitions overseas and especially offering bank-based fishing.</p> <p>Successful spawning is an essential aspect of maintaining the fishery and so I support restricting livestock from accessing the inlet stream, its delta at the South end of the lake and the marshy area adjacent thereto to prevent cattle from encroaching into these areas. I note that the local Fish and Game club members keep the lower end of the inlet stream clear to allow the egress of fish into the stream for spawning. This work will need to continue as it is a function of fallen branches (not of stock movement) and the stream having to find new channels as a consequence.</p> <p>On the other sides of the lake, I support that the current farm management practices of not grazing cattle on the paddocks comprising the lake margin and only using these areas for moving cattle to other locations, continue. I observe that the lake bed adjacent to the banks are either very deep or very soft with deepish, sticky mud, and as such is very dangerous for cattle who would get stuck and could drown or need to be pulled out, and so encourages the farmers to not let cattle graze/linger in the lakeside paddocks. If cattle do happen to get into the lake while in transit, they are immediately encouraged to return to shore by the farmer sending his dogs in to get them out.</p> <p>I also am in agreement that sheep should also be only on the lakeside paddocks for pasture management and transit purposes. Sheep do not stand in the lake by choice and so this is not, in my view, a problem.</p> <p>It is my opinion that any requirement to fence the lakeside paddocks (other than those on the South end) and noting that this is not a requirement under the current Rule R97, would detrimentally affect the ability of the fishing fraternity to enjoy the facility to the extent they currently can and do.</p> <p>I would also suggest that the fouling of the lake water by birds, especially game birds is currently far more detrimental to water quality than any stock activity.</p> <p>I have suggested 2 alternate solutions that could be implemented. My understanding is that should either of these decisions be accepted, the landowners would be very happy to meet with iwi to discuss how the water might be managed in a mutually acceptable and practical manner to meet their respective requirements as to improved water quality, that opportunity as I understand it not having been accorded them in the consultation process.</p>
	<p>I seek the following decision from WRC (give precise details):</p> <p>→</p>	<p>Either:</p> <p>That Lake Kourarau and the inlet stream remain designated as waters of significance, both from a requirement to meet Maori values, but also as a trout fishery and spawning area, and that the current stock management practices on the adjacent farms be deemed appropriate, with the proviso that the inlet stream and wet/delta areas on the South end be fenced so that stock are excluded from encroaching thereon.</p> <p>Or:</p> <p>If this is not tenable in terms of the dam itself being designated as a Category 1 water body and fencing being the only practical solution, I would ask that the Reservoir be removed from schedule C5.</p>

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	<p>Reasons for my submission: →</p>	
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If you have more submissions you wish to make, please find more boxes at the bottom of this document

Attendance and wish to be heard at hearing(s)

- ☒ I/We do wish to be heard in support of my/our submission
 [Note: This means that you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing(s).]
- ☐ I/We do not wish to be heard in support of my/our submission
 [Note: This means that you cannot speak at the hearing. However, you will still retain your right to appeal any decision made by the Wellington Regional Council to the Environment Court.]
- ☒ If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

[Person making submission or person authorised to sign on behalf of person making submission. NB. Not required if making an electronic submission]

Publication of details

Wellington Regional Council is legally required to notify a summary of submissions, including your name and address for service as provided on this submission form. Your name and address are included so that a person making a further submission is able to serve you with a copy of it.

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