

SUBMITTOR

I Caroline Holloway of Ngatitara Hapu, Parapara

APPLICATION NO

AUT.004007.01.03 Discharge of wastewater to Parapara Stream

RENEWAL OF RESOURCE CONSENT

Far North District Council resource consent to discharge wastewater from the East Coast Bays Wastewater Treatment Plant at Taipa to a tributary drain and river of the Parapara Stream.

OBSERVATION OF SETTLING PONDS

1. Lot of ducks and gulls on and around the ponds.
2. Nothing to stop birdlife carrying contaminated materials away from ponds.
3. Did not see any artificial treatment happening of the wastewater ponds at Parapara ie; aeration, screening or filtering.

Solution

- a) Installation of netting over ponds.
- b) Plant more greenery ie; wiwi, flax etc, to take up pollutant wastewater.
- c) Wastewaters from the sewage ponds should never be put into our waterways. It should receive Screening and artificial UV treatment before the wastewater is sent to land for irrigation.
- d) Install modern artificial aeration, capture the gas and use it to power the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

WASTEWATER OUTLET DRAIN OBSERVATION

1. From the bridge at the bottom of the hill on Parapara Road the drain has narrowed over time with vegetation spreading out from the sides.
2. 50 odd years ago that same drain on the other side of the bridge on Parapara Road was where we used to launch our canoe to row down to Aurere, cannot do that now.
3. The first bridge on Parapara Road where the wastewater drain runs under has an overgrowth of greenery reaching out across the wastewater almost hiding the drain from sight. Is that planned or is it neglect of the drains

Solution

- a) Stop all wastewater going into our waterways.
- b) Failing the above, plant the right greenery for each area and manage its upkeep.
- c) Clear back the greenery over the drain so it doesn't hide the wastewater flow.

MY OBSERVATIONS OF AURERE

1. In recent years I have seen cancer growths on the parore, flounder and kahawai that had been caught in and around Aurere.
2. The marine life They don't appear to be in good health compared to 40 years ago when we used to regularly fish, swim and collect shellfish there we also used its waters to cook with.
3. Shellfish with brittle outer shells that crumble under little pressure.
4. There are more than double the amount of mangrove growth at Aurere compared to 40 years ago a direct result of human activities on the upper reaches of the estuary.
5. Horrible Meme (pee) smells.
6. When we go to our bach at Okokori Reserve (Aurere) we have to wade through the sewage wastewaters to get to it.
7. We need to protect our rural areas, beaches and environments as they are the source of our food in our pantry and one of the few free enjoyments in life.
8. Aurere is a taonga it is where I go when I need some uplifting just to recharge and reenergize and reconnect with the land and our past.

Suggestion

- a) Stop the wastewaters going into our waterways.
- b) Rural Far North should value their uniqueness and return our waterways back into the unspoiled nature that it was 50years ago.
- c) We should not be in a hurry to emulate big cities we are small enough to do what is right for the environment and future generation.
- d) Where else can you go and find the only footprints on the beach just happens to be your own.

MAORI PERSPECTIVE

Culturally offensive.

Parapara River, Whakautu River, Pakiritu, Awapoko River, Aurere, Waitapu, Tokarau, Puketu are places significance.

Ngatitara hapu are all kaitiaki to the air, rivers, oceans, lands and their environments within their rohe.

Maori partnership/joint management of this process is a myth.

The mixing of bodily wastes to our waterways is damaging and abhorrent.

Aurere have been the source of kai for Ngatitara, sadly the actions of Council has been taken that right away.

Food sources were kept well away from bodily wastes, do not mix the two.

Where are Maori rights under the Treaty of Waitangi Act and the right to clean water under the various Acts and Regulations?

THE ACTION PLAN

Adopt good business practice the motto 'there is always room for improvement'. Sitting back and doing nothing waiting for the next round of resource consent renewals is not good business practice because if you did that in the real business world your business would go down the drain. Keep improving limit values in an effort to protect our waterways and environments.

CONCLUSION

I have no confidence in our watchdog Northern Regional Council overseeing or monitoring the Far North District Council activities on our waterways as they are one and the same establishment so lacks impartiality. Where is our right to clean water under the various Acts and Regulations?

Therefore this submission does not support and objects to this application.

