Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan

Response to Minute 41 of the Hearing Panel

Waikawa Stream and Turbidity

From: Peter Hamill

Waikawa Stream

1. Te Atiawa o Te Waka-a-Maui sought inclusion of Waikawa Stream in Appendix 5 as to its cultural values. In the Section 42A Report that I was a co-author of, it was recommended that that water classification standards WRU59 could be amended to the following:

   "AE, FS, C (Waikawa Stream)"

2. If the Panel were of the mind that it would be a better outcome if the Waikawa Stream was identified as its own WRU on the Water Resource Unit Map in Volume 4, it is my view that the following values would be appropriate to be included;

No.	Water Resource Unit	Values	Water Quality Classifications
x	Waikawa	**Fish Habitat** Banded kokopu, koaro, bluegill bully, redfin bully, common bully, inanga, shortfin eel and longfin eel habitat. **Riparian Habitat** Intact indigenous forest in upper catchment.	AE, FS, C

Turbidity

3. In the Section 42A Report on Water Quality, it was recommended to the Panel that they accept the Federated Farmers' submission to amend the Interpretation of Standard/Parameter column of Schedule 2 for the standard Colour or visual clarity to read that the wording is changed from:

   Turbidity must be no greater than 1.5 Nephelometric Turbidity Units

   to instead read:

   Turbidity must not change more than 1.5 Nephelometric Turbidity Units

4. The reason for this recommendation is that it is our view that what was notified in the pMEP was an error and it would have been very restrictive. Water with a clarity of 1.5 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) is very clear. For example, the Pelorus River above the SH6 bridge often has a clarity between 1.5 NTU and 2.0, and the Wairau River at SH1 has only had water clarity below 1.5 NTU on three sampling occasions since 2010.
5. If the Water Classification Standard was to remain as it was notified it would mean that activities such as hydro generation could not meet the discharge standards in many waterways even though they do not alter the turbidity of the water with their activity. The water that they take from the river would already be well above 1.5 NTU and then they would have to reduce the turbidity substantially before they were to discharge it again.
6. By changing the standard to the change must be no greater than 1.5 NTU it allows for a very small decrease in turbidity, however the change would be nearly undetectable to the human eye.