

To be submitted as an online submission

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Federated Mountain Clubs support of the proposed Ngaruroro Water Conservation Order

Federated Mountain Clubs represents 20,000 members of over 80 tramping, climbing and other outdoor recreation clubs throughout New Zealand, and the interests and concerns of the estimated 300,000 New Zealanders who enjoy backcountry recreation.

Federated Mountain Clubs supports the application of The New Zealand Fish and Game Council, the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council, Ngāti Hori ki Kohupatiki, Whitewater New Zealand, Jet Boating New Zealand, and the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand for a Water Conservation Order for the Ngaruroro and Clive Rivers. It is fantastic to see these diverse groups expressing their collective desire to protect and cherish these rivers.

Federated Mountain Clubs have been involved with advocating for the specific protection of rivers since the early 1980's. The Ngaruroro River was from those early times identified as a river worthy of protection for its wild and scenic values, alongside rivers that have gained protection such as the Mohaka, Rangitikei and Manganui-o-te-Ao.

For outdoor people, the Ngaruroro is a wild river of great meaning that flows from the heart of the North Island – the tussock country of the Kaimanawa – to meet the sea in Hawkes Bay through a series of wild gorges and forested valleys, before meeting the Heretaunga plains and following its braids to the Waitangi Estuary. The Ngaruroro has 'outstanding' significance for us for all of the reasons listed in s199(2)(a) and (b) of the Resource Management Act 1991. It is important that rivers that meet the Water Conservation Order test as out-lined in the Resource Management Act continue to be protected.

FMC – FEDERATED MOUNTAIN CLUBS

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Federated Mountain Clubs generally confines our advocacy to our area of expertise in the “backcountry”, but reading the application we find the case for the water conservation order on the lowland reaches very persuasive.

Increasingly rivers and their margins are used as corridors for native biodiversity and recreation, a good example is the trails and ecological restoration projects established along the Waikato river, a thriving Ngaruroro River will have positive effects on the communities along its path. Amenity is perhaps too utilitarian a word to describe the pride that comes with respecting and providing for the river.

Federated Mountain Clubs would welcome being heard at the Special Tribunal.

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