

Subject: Te Arawa Wetland design drawing request

Hi Pim

I have attached other pages of signatures from Maketu residents in support of my submission that is also posted on my website www.wetlandsnz.com. The petition is posted there in support of my proposed return of the Kaituna River through Maketu Estuary in a way that will increase fisheries production and has been signed by hundreds of local predominantly Maori people who also do not support a BOPRC proposal that is yet again largely a waste of time and money with little comparative potential benefit to the fishery or to Maketu Estuary. I ask you to reconsider my recommendations please and model them so that you can see that they do not increase flood risk at Maketu.

I believe that re-diversion of Kaituna River flow through Maketu Estuary that has been proposed by BOPRC could best instead be done in a much more productive way to enhance the fishery at Maketu and at Te Tumu. I believe that Bay of Plenty Regional Council could best be striving to see the fishery enhanced as much as is possible in the way that I have described and as is supported by those hundreds who have signed my petition, by former Maketu Taiapure Trust members Frank Maika, Jerry Kissling and Blackie McRae, and by Pia Kerr who must be turning in her grave at the thought of BOPRC proposing to do it at less than best yet again. I am comfortable quoting these deceased people who had all supported my views when they were alive.

Because I have collected hundreds of signatures from Maketu Te Arawa Maori people in support of my proposal, I ask you to please stand with us and strive for the greatest increase in fisheries production at Te Tumu and at Maketu in the way that I have described.

You can see from background letters posted on www.wetlandsnz.com that my intention is to create v-drain kahikatea forested wetlands between Maketu and Te Puke to create inanga (galaxius) and tuna (eel) habitat to enhance the fishery. I have proposed to Western BOP District Council and to Bay of Plenty Regional Council that they convert Lawrence Oliver Park and lowlands from there down the western side of the Kaituna River to Te Tumu into a kahikatea, flax and raupo planted v-drain wetland to create habitat and to strip nutrients before water reaches Maketu Estuary.

I have spoken with Maketu Taiapure Trust Members at our meeting 6/9/17 about what a failure restoration of Te Arawa Swamp has been to date. They agreed that it has not followed the Wildlands recommendations and that ponds created are isolated from the sea and so cannot provide habitat to enhance the fishery, which is what the original kaupapa was when I had proposed the works.

I would like to see a working model created there to purify moving water, strip nutrients via plantings and also provide ideal shaded galaxius, bully and tuna habitat. I have proposed that v-drains be created that are parallel to Maketu Road and that they be planted with raupo, bordered by flax and have kahikatea on high ground between them and with sills at their ends to keep the fresh water moving through them and to keep the salt water out. Flax could be planted on the mounds between the v-drains to control the weeds until kahikatea had grown large enough to shade the area and eliminate other plants.

Maketu Taiapure Trust Chair Willie Emery has asked me to draw my proposal so that it can be considered by Te Arawa Lakes Trust. Would you assist me with this please and show v-drains parallel to Maketu Road receiving water from the eastern side of Te Arawa swamp and with that water made to traverse north and south through parallel flax, raupo and kahikatea planted v-drains and towards Maketu Road before exiting near to the houses on Maketu Road.

I have also previously proposed that No 1 Pumping Station could pump farm effluent runoff from Singleton's Drain and from Kaituna Road Drain into Te Arawa Swamp to be purified by plants instead of directly into Maketu Estuary polluting same. That could increase water movement through the v-drains and so promote increased purification of water.

My proposal could provide a working model that could then be duplicated on any area of lowland anywhere in the country to purify water and to provide adult freshwater fish habitat. Every farm drain in the country could be remodelled to do same. Gullies could be dammed to create ponds to trap sediment. All waterways could have nutrients stripped and sediment trapped. Fisheries production could be rebuilt one drain at a time alongside existing intensive dairying while simultaneously lowering that impact on waterways.

A Te Arawa Swamp working model could be a starting point for this to occur. Wetlands and farm drains could in future be seen by Regional Councils to be potential fisheries production increase opportunities able to create enormous ongoing monetary wealth for a region with little input while also allowing intensive dairying to occur without having a detrimental impact on waterways. It could now start with a Te Arawa swamp v-drain working model demonstrating a measurable increase in fisheries production at Maketu.

A first stage is to draw a plan of potential Te Arawa Swamp V-drains to be approved by Te Arawa Lakes Trust who have made the land available for wetland creation and so they have more than done their share I believe. The next stage is for BOP Regional Council to provide diggers to develop the wetland and to plant it with kahikatea, flax and raupo. We would then inevitably witness a fisheries production increase at Maketu and so demonstrate a potential that exists nationwide.

Kindest regards

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