

From: Don Paterson <nat.opc@xtra.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 1:06 PM

To: 'Pim.deMonchy@boprc.govt.nz' <Pim.deMonchy@boprc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: You're invited - Kaituna River re-diversion karakia and public opening celebration

Hi Pim

Thank you for the invitation but “we've brought fresh water back” is for me a painful overstatement after many decades of my promoting a greater outcome. I acknowledge that BOPRC are spending money on enhancing the environment which is I believe a wonderful thing. There is however still much more to do that could be celebrated I believe. BOPRC has not brought the fresh water back through Maketu Estuary as has been requested of BOPRC by many people for many decades and as is supported by 18 pages of signatures so far on my petition that I have presented. I have attached the 18th page.

BOPRC has I believe spent \$17 million intending returning 20% of Kaituna River flow back through Maketu Estuary in another 12 months. This is not what was requested of BOPRC as is evidenced by the 18 pages of signatures that I have presented in support of my views which I took all the way to the Appeal Court. The erosion of Maketu spit that I described to the Appeal Court Judge that would happen as a result of BOPRC using the failed Ford's Twin Cuts mistake again, did happen as I had described it would. Where then I wonder is the justice in the NZ Appeal Court legal system that had found against me and in favour of BOPRC supporting BOPRC making the mistake and wasting considerable public funds. The Appeal Court could have stopped BOPRC wasting public funds and could have ruled in favour of building what I was recommending instead at far less cost and with a far greater benefit to Maketu Estuary ecosystem enhancement.

I acknowledge that you have removed the Papahikahawai Island stop-bank and have planted maritime marsh as I had recommended as is recorded in background copy letters posted on www.wetlandsnz.com.

I believe that BOPRC has just made another major expensive mistake and for a fraction of the cost BOPRC could have raised Maketu Road to stop-bank Maketu Village and protect Maketu and adjacent farmland from Kaituna River floods as well as from the possibility of sea level rise. A large portion of Kaituna River fresh water does flow above saltwater including Kaituna River floods on a falling tide and could now be reforming Maketu Estuary and its ecosystem food chain production as it originally had done and without cost.

The \$17million dollars that BOPRC has spent on a 20% outcome could instead have been used to purchase lowland farmland in the lower Kaituna River catchment and could have created nutrient-stripping, Te Puke Borough and AFFCO Rangiuru effluent treating, oxygen producing kahikatea, flax and raupo planted v-drain wetlands in support of local fisheries production.

The greater the area of supporting v-drain kahikatea forested wetland that is now created in the Kaituna River catchment then the more significant could be the enhancement of local fisheries production which could then lead to wholesale nationwide duplication of nutrient-stripping, oxygen producing wetlands to enhance nationwide fisheries production that is incredibly exportable.

V-drain kahikatea forested wetlands that I have promoted be built on Te Arawa Lakes Trust's Whakapokorero Wetland between Waitepuia stream and Otumakoro stream, as well as immediately below the Eastern Link motorway Kaituna River overbridge, have so far been mismanaged by individuals without sufficient insight who have not seen the potential to initiate the construction of many more wetlands to support fisheries rebuild and they have so far poorly constructed and have also poisoned wetlands with helicopter-sprayed glyphosate and other toxic agrochemicals that are unattractive to galaxius (whitebait) and tuna (eel) and also to anyone else with more common sense than ERMA has displayed to date like the 30 countries around the world who have banned its use.

Our own dairy industry has I believe destroyed the potential production of our inshore coastal fishery by draining coastal wetlands for pasture so destroying freshwater fisheries food chains that could otherwise have been building and supporting our coastal fisheries production i.e. galaxius (whitebait), tuna (eel) and bullies etc.

Hydro dams have isolated enormous freshwater habitats that had used to exist and that could be reconnected with the ocean via water-ladders.

Our own tuna long-liners and purse seiners are targeting marlin and yellowfin tuna and are destroying the potential of our sports fishery.

ERMA is allowing the widespread use of agrochemicals which are in conjunction with other synthetic chemical pollutants affecting the ability of our fish and of all life to reproduce to its full potential.

All forms of net do damage all forms of fish and so do lower the value of the catch and nets destroy non-target species and natural habitats as well like seaweed and coral which could otherwise provide advantageous habitat. Driftnets have been banned. If we now ban all nets the fishery will rebuild.

Fish are targeted commercially while they are concentrated to spawn and so easier to catch and so their breeding potential is severely restricted. We could now protect striped marlin when spawning 100 km off Cairns, Australia in December and within two years we could witness a huge increase in marlin numbers throughout the Pacific and Indian Oceans as a result. That could demonstrate a potential to increase other fish species production by also protecting them while they spawned.

We must have ocean sanctuaries to preserve breeding stocks but there is a lot more that could be done to rebuild food chains. Maketu Estuary restoration in the Bay of Plenty does provide us with an opportunity to prove how we could restock the ocean with fish by recreating wetlands that had used to exist in connection with estuarine maritime marsh galaxius (whitebait) spawning habitat and in isolation from agrochemicals.

V-drain wetlands could now be proven to lower nutrients and convert them into oxygen while providing ideal galaxius (whitebait) and tuna (eel) habitat, the spawn from which could rebuild food chains and restock the surrounding fishery with fish further up the food chain. Please see www.wetlandsnz.com Background Copy Letters for my decades of recommendations re fisheries management.

Kindest regards

Don Paterson

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