

## Extract from the MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

23 September 2009

### 10. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM:

#### 10(i) Environmental Management Committee

##### **Taharua Catchment: Land Use Issues and Management Options**

Councillor Remmerswaal spoke to this item and said that she now supports this proposal. She acknowledged that there had been a lot of public alarm about the decline in quality and she sees this as working towards resolving the problems and making this a pristine river and stated that on that basis she was now happy to support the actions being taken.

Councillors were tabled with an item giving an explanation of what zero tolerance to consent non compliance means, which will be provided to the public as necessary.

The Chairman advised that the key point to this was to acknowledge there is a need to regulate. Councillors also said this was a new path that Council was now entering and needed to be cautious of the results of going down that path. The effects based regulatory path is in keeping with the intent of the Act. Councillors said that they would like to see future consideration of regulation in other catchments which sends a clear signal to landowners that correct farming practices are important.

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

That Council:

1. Receives the report titled '*Taharua Catchment: Land use issues and Management Options*'.
2. Recognises the Mohaka River and its tributaries as having outstanding values in terms of ecosystems, natural character, fisheries, public amenity and cultural significance, requiring integrated and sustainable management of the water resource.
3. Supports an approach for dealing with the water quality issues in the Taharua and Mohaka catchments that incorporates an effects based regulatory framework along with an adaptive catchment management approach.
4. Endorses a zero tolerance approach to consent non-compliance in the Taharua River Catchment.
5. Instructs staff to clearly communicate Council's position on the effects of land use intensification of the Taharua River Catchment to relevant industry organisations such as Federated Farmers and Fonterra, both at a local level and at a national level.
6. Instructs staff to communicate with all landowners in the Taharua Catchment, the issues and management of the environmental effects of land use activities in the catchment.
7. Instructs staff to establish a catchment stakeholder group for the Taharua and Mohaka rivers for the purpose of community engagement.
8. Instructs staff to prepare a Taharua River Strategy which sets out the approach, key steps and timetable toward the development of an (ideally) agreed policy framework for inclusion in the regional plans, with the draft Strategy to be reported back to the November 2009 Environmental Management Committee meeting.

**Remmerswaal/von Dadelszen  
CARRIED**