

Capil Grove Application (APP-20222055)

Summary by Stevie-Rae Blair

04 July 2023

1. My name is Stevie-Rae Blair and I have provided cultural evidence for Waihōpai Rūnaka, not as a member but as kaimahi of Te Ao Marama.
2. I take my evidence as read but have some parts of that evidence which I would like to summarise.
3. I will just explain some of the reasoning for our position as per our evidence, in the past since about 2016-2017 we have had a position on the addition of cows into the takiwā, in the past we have not worked on consent conditions with the applicants, we have opposed these. Most if not all these applications have been granted and we have not provided input to those. In this instance we have tried to balance outcomes for the Taiao and the position of Waihōpai Rūnaka.
4. Over the past six months the applicant and rūnanga via TAMI have been working through the draft conditions provided by the council processing officer. We were keen to ensure that additional conditions were included to ensure certainty for us, rather than leaving them to be included in a FEMP. Because once a consent is granted, we generally don't have ongoing input.
5. This has had some positive outcomes, both in terms of outcomes for the Taiao but also for relationships and working alongside the applicant which rūnanga would like to acknowledge.
6. While we have successfully had additions of riparian planting, sediment traps, detention structures, upgrades to farm laneways and further monitoring and reporting. We see these additions could make a positive improvement to the outputs on the farm.
7. In saying this, I am not an expert in the farming system and have not been on the farm to decipher if what has been proposed will provide the most benefit on farm. While we support the intention behind these. We are interested in comment from Environment Southland as they have not been involved in the further iterations of the consent conditions since the first draft.
8. The position of rūnanga is still to decline the application, because we do not agree with adding cows to our takiwā due to the degradation of our waterways however if the council is of the mind to approve the application, the consent conditions should reflect the best outcome and improvement for the environment.