

12 July 2022

Consents Manager
Private Bay 90116
Invercargill

Tēnā Koe,

RE: Submission on Resource consent application – APP-20211669

Please find attached a submission lodged, by Te Wai Parera Trust on Resource Consent applications to periodically open Wai Parera (Waituna Lagoon) to the sea by excavation of a channel through the gravel barrier separating Lake Waituna from Toetoes Bay.

We trust the information contained within the submission is sufficient; however, should you wish to discuss any aspect further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Nāhaku noa nā,

Gail Thompson
Te Wai Parera Trustee

To: Environment Southland
Private Bay 90116
Invercargill

1. This is a submission on the application (Resource Consent Application APP-20211669) to periodically open Wai Parera (Waituna Lagoon) to the sea by excavation of a channel through the gravel barrier separating Lake Waituna from Toetoes Bay.
2. This submission relates to the applications in their entirety (Appendix A). We are **opposed** to the granting of the applications.
3. We **do wish to be heard** in support of its submission.
4. We are not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991.
5. A copy of this submission has been sent to the applicant.

Signed for and on behalf of Te Wai Parera Trust.

Gail Thompson
Te Wai Parera Trustee

Submission

1. This submission is made by Te Wai Parera Trust (The Trust). The Trusts objectives are to provide opportunity for whānau and community to connect and sustainably manage the taonga which are the Waituna lagoon, wetlands, coast, biodiversity, rākau, manu and mahingakai species which have flourished in the past in this environment.
2. The Trust wish to achieve these through education, wananga, science programs, health and wellbeing, whenua restoration, plantings, ponding etc. While providing economic opportunities to invest back into the land, water and its people.
3. In recent years there has been significant investment and relationships formed by various parties to understand issues within the catchment ki uta ki tai to support the wellbeing of people, water, whenua and taonga and to start addressing the impacts and challenges. Central government, local government, partnership, and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu joint funding has allowed a combined approach. A portion of this pūtea was used to purchase land generally affected by higher water level.
4. The Trust obtained whenua (now named Pikiraurohi) as part of the strategic vision by various organisations to carry out and support the kaitiaki obligations of Ngāi Tahu whānui.
5. However as noted above the vision for Te Wai Parera Trust is to create a space to enable Ngāi Tahu whānui to reconnect to the whenua and mahinga kai practices. This is to be actioned by the creation of a Mahinga Kai Pā which requires land use change, transitions away from its past use as an agricultural farm.
6. The Mahinga Kai Pā will consist of replanting of wetland species and ponds created, to provide habitat for taonga species to thrive in and eventually for cultural harvests to happen.
7. In 1971 the Waituna Scientific Reserve was established, which removed the ability for any harvesting of cultural materials within the lagoon. Pikiraurohi was purchased as a place to enable those practices to be carried out.
8. The Trust are fully aware of the high-water levels across this property and the need to have these levels based on ecological health and wellbeing of lagoon and whenua and of the requirement to operate at higher water levels to allow for ecological lagoon openings.
9. Periodic inundation of whenua around the margin of the lagoon is considered a natural event by the trust and there is an understanding that this contributes to the health and wellbeing of the lagoon and its margins.

10. The Trust recognise the need to consider climate change in their thinking, build resilience into people, water, and land. We recognise that opening the lagoon based on land drainage principles must be secondary to the ecological wellbeing of the lagoon and surrounds.

11. The Trust **opposes** the application for the following reasons:

- The application will negatively affect the ecological outcomes required to protect the health of the lagoon.
- The application will negatively impact the ability to manage Pikiraurahi, as the application is to effectively drain affected whenua, farmland – which is not desirable for us creating a mahinga ka pā.
- The application considers that there are potential significant adverse effects on the Waiparera (Waituna) Lagoon which could have significant effects on the ability for us to undertake the projects we have planned to include:
 - to reconnect our whānau, hapū and Iwi
 - to provide increased biodiversity and ecological wellbeing of the lagoon
 - to allow for cultural harvests of taonga species
 - to undertake kaitiaki obligations
- The applicant has not consulted/engaged with us during this application process.

Decision Sought

10. We seek that council declines the application given the effects that this application will have on us as kaitiaki and landowner.

Gail Thompson

Te Wai Parera Trustee

Date 13 July 2022