



Outlook

Further submission on NRP from Friends of Waiwhetu Stream

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Kia Ora

Further Submission on NRP from Friends of Waiwhetu Stream

I am writing on behalf of Friends of Waiwhetu Stream to express my concerns regarding the proposed water quality standards for Waiwhetu Stream as outlined in the National Resources Plan (NRP), specifically the new 2060 target for achieving the minimum swimmable water quality. The Friends of Waiwhetu Stream and many members of the local community are deeply disappointed by this extended timeline, as it fails to reflect the urgency of improving water quality in this important local waterway.

The primary issue with Waiwhetu Stream is the high levels of E. coli, which make the stream unsuitable for recreational use. As a waterway that passes close to residential properties and areas with high pedestrian traffic, Waiwhetu Stream holds significant potential to serve as a local amenity for residents, enhancing their quality of life. However, its current water quality severely limits this potential.

Furthermore, frequent flooding events exacerbate the situation by carrying contaminants into properties and reserves adjacent to the stream. These events highlight the need for immediate action to address both the ongoing and future risks posed by water contamination in this area.

We believe that mitigating these issues does not require complex or costly solutions. Key actions, such as identifying and addressing cross-connections within the stormwater system, installing barriers to prevent contaminants from entering the waterway, and educating local residents about the impact of their behaviours on the stream, would make a significant difference. These steps are not only achievable but would have a lasting positive effect on the water quality in Waiwhetu Stream and the surrounding environment.

Given Waiwhetu Stream's proximity to local communities and its potential as a recreational resource, we urge the hearing panel to prioritize this waterway in the efforts to improve water quality. We strongly believe that taking swift action will ensure that the stream can be safely used and enjoyed by residents, contributing to the well-being of the community.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Nga mihi
Michael