

Water & Environmental Care Association Inc (WECA)

The Manawatu River is one of the three most polluted rivers in New Zealand.

It is unique in that it is the only river in NZ to run from one coast to the other i.e. east to west.

Downstream from Palmerston North the Manawatu River has one of the highest disease risks for swimmers in the region.

Ref: Horizons report on "MANAGEMENT OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES – WATER QUALITY" Controller and Auditor-General 20 May 2005
www.oag.govt.nz.nz

High nitrate levels pose a health risk for the rural populations that depend on groundwater for drinking water.

Ref: Horizons Report on "MEASURES FROM A CHANGING LANDSCAPE"
www.horizons.govt.nz/Images/Publications/ResourceManagement/SOereportp51_60.pdf

We in the Horowhenua demand clean water for recreation, including swimming, fishing, and tourism.

One day we may all need this river for our drinking water.

Waitarere Environmental Care Assn Inc 2002

New Zealand has successfully established its "100% Pure, Clean and Green" brand in marketing tourism and food products to the world.

Just how clean and green is New Zealand under the surface of its green grassy pasture, lush forest and sparkling water image?

Not quite so clean, according to a government commissioned study by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research entitled "Water quality in low-elevation streams and rivers."

Ref: 23 March 2004 www.terrannature.org/index.htm

"Good water quality is a community priority"

WECA's ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

In 2003 Horizons Regional Council granted Palmerston North City Council a dry weather resource consent to discharge up to 43,000 cubic metres of effluent a day into the Manawatu River for the next 25 years.

There are no restrictions on the amount that may be discharged in wet weather.

OUTCOME In 2004 WECA settled out of court and Palmerston North City Council was granted a consent to be reviewed in 13 years, 2016.

In 2006 Horizons Regional Council granted Fonterra permission to discharge 8,500 cu.m of "low strength effluent" per day into the river between May and October for the next 15 years.

WECA appealed.

OUTCOME In 2007 the effluent maximum volume was reduced to 6,000 cubic metres per day with no High Strength Effluent discharge permitted during November to April. During that period the volume of Low Strength Effluent discharge shall not exceed 2,500 cubic metres per day. At all times the combined discharges shall be to land on the Permit Holder's irrigation farms whenever the soil moisture conditions on those farms are suitable for that purpose.

WECA was formed in 2002 as Waitarere Environmental Care Association Inc.

The name was changed in 2008 to Water & Environmental Care Association Inc.

To promote the sustainable management of the natural environment affecting the Manawatu River catchment, the Horowhenua District and surrounding Districts.

WECA helped by participating in several Forums on water to help establish a Drinking Water Subsidy Fund from Government that will provide funding to Councils and other water suppliers for technical advice and direct capital assistance with upgrading water systems.

\$136.9 million was made available to ensure clean drinking water in NZ.

WECA put in submissions to Horowhenua District Council, Horizons Regional Council and several letters to The Editor regarding our substandard drinking water in Levin and the Horowhenua.

OUTCOME Horowhenua District Council has budgeted to spend \$10,000,000 in 2009 to upgrade Levin's water to New Zealand's Water Quality Standards.

"Good water quality is a community priority"

In 2008 WECA appealed the Consent Decisions for NZ Pharmaceuticals and the Silver Fern Farms Fellmongery at Shannon. Mediation resulted in a tightening up of conditions.

Other appeals lodged in 2008 which have yet to be resolved are:

- Kimbolton effluent discharge (Manawatu District Council)
- Coastal Lakes Station (40,000 pig stock units) Potential to affect the Manawatu Estuary

Resource Consent Applications, Palmerston North City Council/Longburn Proposal and Horizons Proposed One Plan - still to be resolved:

- Foxton effluent discharge to the River Loop (Horowhenua District Council)
- Shannon effluent discharge to land and Manawatu River (Horowhenua District Council)
- Levin Landfill Review of Conditions (Horowhenua District Council)
- Levin effluent disposal from the Mako Mako Road STP (Horowhenua District Council)
- Longburn industrial effluent into the PNCC sewage treatment plant
- Water Chapter POP – June 2009

Submissions coming up:

Robbie St, Foxton Beach Stormwater Discharge into the Manawatu Estuary due 18th November 2008

Longburn Domestic Effluent Discharge (2009)

“Good water quality is a community priority”

WECA'S meetings are held the first Monday of every month at Thompson House, Kent St, Levin, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

If you would like to know more about our group or would like to join please contact:

Fred De Jager – Chairperson
email dj.groene-wegje@xtra.co.nz
Christina Paton – Secretary - 06 363 5323
email malimidwe@paradise.net.nz
Nita Gardiner – Member - 06 3680208
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Donations and new members are most welcome! Our annual subscription is \$10.00

Water & Environmental Care Assn Inc
PO Box 11, Foxton Beach.

By becoming a member you will be:

- Contributing to local & nationwide campaigns such as raising awareness of local government and the general public to the pollution in our water ways
- Writing submissions to local government
- Writing letters to The Editor
- Promoting WECA by way of flyers and road shows
- Assisting WECA to lobby local and central government on national environmental issues.

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WECA



Manawatu River

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Constitutional Objective