

Water Conservation Order: Ngaruroro and Clive Rivers

Hawke's Bay region | November 2022

What is the Water Conservation Order?

The Environmental Protection Authority publicly notified an application for a Water Conservation Order (WCO) for the Ngaruroro and Clive rivers in July 2017. In 2019, a special tribunal granted a WCO for the upper Ngaruroro River but declined one for the lower part. This decision was appealed by Forest and Bird, and other parties such as Whitewater New Zealand.

A WCO requires a waterbody to be managed in its natural state. HortNZ did not appeal the decision, but the decision was appealed by several parties, seeking that the WCO also applied to the lower Ngaruroro River. HortNZ joined the appeal in support of Hawke's Bay Regional Council. HortNZ's did not support a WCO being applied to the lower river.

Latest updates

The Environment Court issued an interim recommendation in November 2022, which recommends a WCO over both the upper and lower Ngaruroro River. This is not the outcome HortNZ had advocated for.

Appeals on Environment Court interim recommendations are possible. However, they must be on points of law to the High Court. If no appeals are lodged, the recommendation of the Environment Court will go to the Minister for the Environment for consideration. The Minister can decide to accept or reject it.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

- EPA website: [Water Conservation Order: Ngaruroro and Clive Rivers | EPA](#)
- Keep an eye on [HortNZ's website](#)