

**ENVIRONMENT RIVER PATROL™**  
**AOTEAROA - NEW ZEALAND**  
*Kaitiaki mo nga awa*



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Northland Regional Council  
 Waiora Northland Water and Fonterra  
 Cc Federated Farmers, DOC, NIWA, WDC, hapuu and stakeholders.

**Hotline Report #058 to NRC Re: Effluent discharge into Wairua River at Kokopu**

- On 02.05.2014 ERP-A commenced a motorboat patrol on the Wairua River starting at Malone Road bridge completing 6.5 klm downriver to near Managakahia Road bridge. Also completing 3.6 klm upriver to near Purua pool and rapids. All up approx. 10.1 klm (return).
- On-board were Millan Ruka, Henry Ruka and two other Local Government personnel. The LG personnel joined this trip to view the environmental condition of the river, and for orientation.
- While progressing downriver ( at 10.54 am) to approx. 1.450 klm below Malone's all persons on-board could smell the strong and unmistakable smell of cattle urine and effluent in the river at this particular point. It was also smelt further downriver as we progressed and then faded over a distance of some 500 metres. We could see lots of foam on the river similar to effluent amalgamation that is often seen as it falls from a height then forms to create foam.
- It was ironic that just before we could smell this discharge we had in-depth discussion as to the clarity and quality of the water. Three of us on-board have had a life-time association with this particular stretch of the river and we all remembered that it once ran clean and clear and you could often see eels moving around in the daytime. We spoke of why was it is now green, murky and pungent in smell. My advice was that it was from the immense discharge of cowshed effluent and dairy and beef run-off as the main contributor. We then we came across the distinct smell of effluent in the river.
- On our return back up river we again come across the clear pungent smell of urine and effluent in the water and this increased as we got up nearer, but not at the previous location. It appears that the discharge had ceased and was being diluted in the river flow. We saw foam again when the smell was apparent.
- It seems apparent that this was a discharge from a dairy farm(s) in the vicinity of the first smell at around 1.450 metres below (downriver) Malone Road bridge. It obviously was not compliant to meet effluent quality standards set by NRC and the RMA.

- **Request to NRC** - That NRC investigate the “points of discharge from dairy farms in this vicinity and on up to Malone Road bridge and identifies where the discharge comes from.
- **Request to NRC** – That NRC takes appropriate action to ensure that the discharges cease and appropriate action is taken.
- **Request to NRC** – That NRC provides to ERP-A (Millan Ruka) the point of discharge (POD) co-ordinates and the drain or stream details/map where the PODs confluence with the Wairua River for the purpose of self monitoring by ERP-A on our river patrols. This information is requested under the “Official Information Act 1982; and or the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987” The PODs that are required, are any from Malone’s bridge and down for a distance of approx. two kilometres. The self monitoring would be done by ERP on the river and its legal riparian. Access to farm land is not required and trespassing law will be respected.
- On this patrol beef cattle were gps photographed on the Wairua River just above the Mangere River confluence. They will be the subject of a future report. This will be the third report to NRC on the same cattle, at the same location where they graze and foul the unfenced river banks of both the Mangere and Wairua rivers.

\* The farmer(s) discharging foul water to the river are in breach of the Resource Management Act 1991” Act Section 15  
and  
Act Section 17 ie *“Duty to avoid, remedy, or mitigate any adverse effect on the environment”*

\*Please inform the writer of action, or inaction to this correspondence.

naku noa

*Millan Ruka*

**Environment River Patrol - Aotearoa**