



**Immediate Release
9 March 2018**

**Former Idol Judge Calls on Everyone Māori & Non-Māori to Say “Yes”
To Government Protecting Te Waikoropupū Springs**

Former New Zealand Idol Judge, [Frankie Stevens](#) MNZM is standing up in support of his Nelson based hapū, Ngāti Tama ki Te Waipounamu Trust that is trying to protect sacred Te Waikoropupū Springs with a Water Conservation Order (WCO).

He released a [video clip today](#) posted on the [Ngāti Tama's Facebook page](#) calling on everyone - Māori or non-Māori - to say “yes” and complete an online submission in support of protecting the largest cold water springs in the Southern Hemisphere that has some of the clearest water ever measured

He reminds the public that the deadline is **4pm Wednesday 14 March 2018**.

The WCO is the highest level of protection to preserve the wāhi tapu (sacred waters) that are known to be the clearest in the world.

Iwi believe now is a critical time concerning water allocation for the region. Last month Kaumātua of Ngāti Tama, John Ward-Holmes publicly shared Iwi's “serious concerns “ about the current water allocation levels and the identified E. coli levels in his rohe.

He also wanted to “jog the memory of many” to register their support. The call worked, was picked up by Stevens who is now vocally lending his support for the cause.

Online submissions for the Water Conservation Order can be lodged through the Environmental Protection Authority website <https://submissions.epa.govt.nz/consultations/water-conservation-order-te-waikoropupu-springs/make-a-submission>

As Mana Whenua and Kaitiaki of their rohe, Ngāti Tama has an important ancestral role that safeguards the cultural, ecological and spiritual value of the waterways and land for the benefit of the whole community for future generations.

Currently any member of the public can make submissions about the Water Conservation Order which will be considered in March by a Special Tribunal appointed by the Government.

Background

Ngāti Tama ki Te Waipounamu Trust was formed in 2013 to represent the Uri o Ngāti Tama who whakapapa to Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka-ā-Maui (Top of the South Island).

The rohe of Ngāti Tama covers Mohua, Whakatu, Motueka, and Wakapuaka.

The Trust (in its two forms) has held the responsibility since 1993 for advancing Treaty of Waitangi claims on behalf of the Uri o Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu through their claim Wai 723.

Web: <http://www.ngati-tama.iwi.nz>

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Links:

Ngāti Tama ki Te Waipounamu media area: <http://www.ngati-tama.iwi.nz/media/media.htm>

Historical media coverage on settlement: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/8580144/Ngati-Tama-settlement-signed>