

Friends of Golden Bay
c/o Secretary
Tukurua
RD1
Takaka,

Tasman District Council
Water Quality Management
P.O.Box
Richmond

RE: Escheria coli contamination during a runoff event in Golden Bay on 1 April 2019

Dear ?,

The Friends of Golden Bay (FoGB) would like to take this opportunity to pass on sampling results from various catchments here in Golden Bay. We sampled E.coli concentrations in Fish Ck., Mutupipi R. and Wainui River during a recent and modest ~ 28 mm runoff event on the 1 April 2019.

Fish Ck at Pupu Springs:

Fish Ck. at Reserve boundary	87,000 E.coli/100ml
Fish Ck at board walk channel	310,000 E.coli/100ml
Fish Ck below Springs	41,000 E.coli/100ml

Motupipi River:

State Highway Bridge	2,300 E.coli/100ml
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Wainui Bay

Stream on eastern side of the Bay	5,100 E.coli/100ml
Wainui River near confluence	11,000 E.coli/100ml

These data show high to extremely high E.coli concentrations originating from mainly dairy operations in these catchments. In the case of the Fish Ck. sample set, the figures are alarming and need to be followed up immediately.

As you would be aware, Fish creek has by now an established history of high non-point source E.coli concentrations. In the case of the 310,000/100ml concentration detected at the Fish Creek board walk channel, we would suggest that some illegal activity took place which needs urgent attention.

The E.coli concentrations from the other sampling sites confirm yet again that runoff events lead to elevated E.coli concentrations from upstream pastoral land uses, mainly dairying. In fact, in whatever dairying catchment FoGB has sampled downstream of dairy operations during runoff events, E.coli concentrations were very high.

By not including event sampling in a routine sampling program, 1) the sampling statistic is underestimating median, annual E.coli concentrations, 2) water quality statistics important for NPS FW policy thresholds are underestimated and 3) specific land use practices leading to these non-point source pollutant losses cannot be identified, particularly when under stress from rainfall events.

In the light of the imminent announcement of the Waikoropupu Springs Water Conservation Order directive we urge relevant TDC departments to immediately commence initiatives with the dairy sector in Golden Bay with the aim to significantly reduce surface runoff contamination during rainfall events.

FoGB will a from now on publish our sampling results in the local press and undertake a series of publicity campaigns highlighting these unacceptable levels of non-point source pollution.

Regards