

Iwi guts plans to use carp

By JODEAL CADACIO

A PROPOSAL to release grass carp into Quarry Lake to eradicate pest weeds has been rejected after objections from two iwi.

The Conservation Department has rejected the proposal by the North Shore Radio Yacht Squadron and New Zealand Waterways Restoration, supported by the Takapuna Community Board.

New Zealand Waterways' Gray Jamieson says the consent application drew strong objections from two of the five iwi consulted by the department.

In their submissions, Ngai Tai ki Tamaki Tribal Trust, based in Clevedon, and the Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara Trust, based in Helensville, opposed the idea of releasing grass carp to control exotic weeds at the lake.

Trustee Peter Karaka says Ngai Tai have historical connections to Lake Te Puke (Lake Pupuke) and surrounding water bodies including Quarry Lake as a result of past mining extraction of mineral resources. He says Ngai Tai have previously opposed the release of grass carp into waterways where they have historical associations.

"One of the biosecurity concerns for Ngai Tai is that the Asian community will invade the lake environment and catch the fresh water grass carp and potentially release them into other contributory waterways," he says.

Ngati Whatua chief executive Jane Sherard says their objection is "due to our known policy of giving distinction to man-made ponds or stormwater devices and that of natural water bodies".

"We are not convinced as to the measure of mitigation tools and

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- Iwi trustee Peter Karaka

devices mentioned in the application and consider the risk of grass carp making their way to Pupuke and the underground release to Waitemata," she says.

Mr Jamieson says both iwi had given consent to in excess of 20 sites each in the past.

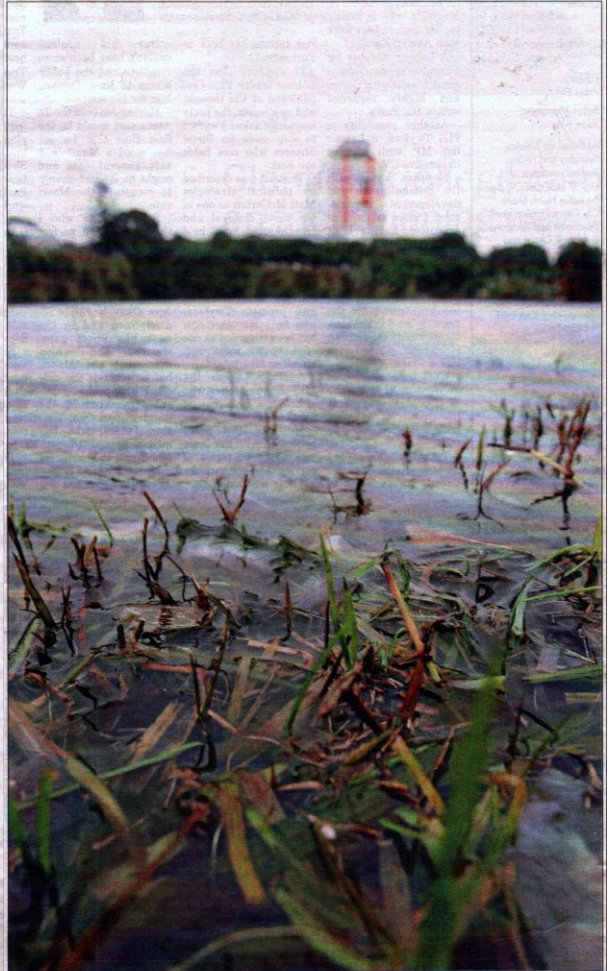
"We can only assume they have made claims for the lake as neither raised concerns for conservation issues other than the potential for escape into Lake Pupuke and then the underground release into the Waitemata harbour which by the way is impossible," he says.

The Ngati Paoa Tribal Trust is concerned that the carp may carry disease and contaminate native fish or birds.

Two other iwi - Ngati Whatua o Orakei Trust Board and the Hauraki Maori Trust Board did not respond to the consultation.

North Shore City Council parks officer Paul Cliffe says the department in declining the application held that Quarry Lake may not be secured to a level that will prevent the possibility of the fish moving into Lake Pupuke.

Koi carp, rudd, tench and other introduced fish including trout are already present in Lake Pupuke and fished for by anglers of many ethnicities.



Carp-free: Efforts to release grass carp to eradicate pest weeds on Quarry Lake have been dashed by the Department of Conservation. Photo: BEN WATSON