

Charter summary:

At this time of climate crisis and uncertainty we call on all levels of government to:

- Halt the relentless drive for infinite economic growth on a finite planet
- Require industries to internalise the environmental and social costs of their production
- Prioritise the protection and *regeneration* of all freshwater systems
- Rigorously exercise the precautionary principle when making decisions regarding access to, use, control and management of all water.
- Recognise and protect the human right to safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation.
- Ensure decisions regarding water management are and continue to be made via effective participatory democratic processes.
- Uphold and respect the human right to refuse to undergo any medical treatment via fluoridated public water supplies
- Enact new overseas investment regulations to ensure water and land are given equivalent protection under the Act; and to ensure environmental and social benefits/costs *must* be assessed and strongly weighted when making decisions under the Act.
- Urgently address the issue of water allocation firstly, by removing the first-in/first-served approach and provisions that allow (or may be perceived to allow) water permits to be sold and repurposed; and secondly, by enacting new regulations to ensure the increasingly scarce resource is allocated equitably, in a way that recognises and upholds human rights and Maori rights under te Tiriti and prioritises the use of water for sustainable and regenerative activities.
- Reject the concept of commodifying water and the use of market mechanisms (including royalties) on the basis that these can not and will never protect our water nor ensure there is enough available to meet communities' priority needs or aspirations.
- Implement moratorium on all new industrial water bottling activities in New Zealand. This prohibition should remain in place at least until regulations are implemented requiring preferential water allocation to activities that safeguard our ecosystems, Tiriti rights and the human right to water as determined by tangata whenua and local communities via statutory consultative processes.