



Education

PhD – Environmental Science, Griffith University, Brisbane, 1994

M. Sc (Hons) – Zoology, University of Auckland, New Zealand, 1987

B.Sc. – Zoology and Marine Biology, University of Auckland, 1985

GradDipT (Secondary) University of Waikato, 2012

PRINCE2 Practitioner Certificate in Project Management, 2016

Making Good Decisions: Certification as RMA Decision Maker, 2014; Recertification, 2017, 2020, Chair Endorsement, 2020.

Certificate in Company Direction, Institute of Directors, 2020

Experience Highlights

- Freshwater Commissioner, MfE, 2020 - present
- HSNO Committee member, EPA, 2015 - present
- Director, Streamlined Environmental since January 2014
- Over 30 years' experience working in scientific consultancy, research, management, education and government roles in New Zealand and Australia
- 7 years as Research Programme Leader, NIWA
- 9 years as Group Manager/Scientist (Freshwater Ecology), NIWA,
- 9 months teaching experience at Liggins Institute (University of Auckland)
- 3 years as Principal Scientist, Aquatic Ecology, NIWA Australia, Brisbane,
- 3 years as Principal Conservation Officer (Aquatic Ecology and Planning), Queensland EPA, Brisbane,
- 5 years as a Senior Environmental Consultant, Natural Resource Assessments, Queensland

Ngairé R. Phillips, PhD.

Independent Commissioner - Environmental Science Specialist (Freshwater and Estuarine Ecology and Ecotoxicology)

Dr Phillips is an experienced environmental scientist with specialist expertise in aquatic ecology and environmental toxicology. She is also co-owner of a specialist science consultancy. She has experience through roles in consulting, research, science management, project management and education. She has a wealth of knowledge based on practical and extensive experience in a wide range of scientific disciplines, including freshwater and estuarine ecology, customary fisheries management, water quality and land management associated with rivers, lakes and estuaries. Ngairé has considerable experience in leading and participating in multi-disciplinary teams. She is also a registered RMA Independent Commissioner (with Chair Endorsement) and is an appointed member of the HSNO Committee.

Specialty areas:

Application of the RMA

Freshwater and estuarine ecology

Ecotoxicology (Environmental Toxicology)

Environmental Impact Assessment

Selected Examples of Relevant Experience

Experience on Decision Making Committees

I am experienced decision maker under the RMA in roles as an Independent Commissioner and as a member of a Special Tribunal Panel established to consider a Water Conservation Order. I have certification under the "Making Good Decisions" certification programme, qualifying in 2014 and. I also have Chair Endorsement and am recertified until 2025. My experience as an Independent Commissioner includes appointment on panels to consider renewals of discharge consents within the Waikato Region, as well as for Nelson and Tasman District Councils, along with ministerial appointment to a 5-person Special Tribunal to consider a Water Conservation Order for a Hawkes Bay River. I am also an appointed member of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Committee, which makes decisions on applications under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996, a role which I have held since 2015. This role is comparable to that under the RMA but focused on hazardous substances and organisms new to New Zealand. I have also been appointed as a Freshwater Commissioner by the Ministry for the Environment, for an initial appointment of 3 years. In most cases, my role has been to provide technical expertise in my specialist area of aquatic science (water quality, ecology in rivers, lakes, estuaries and the coastal environment) and ecotoxicology, as well as my broader environmental science knowledge, knowledge of the RMA and, where appropriate, insight into Mātauranga Māori.

Examples of my experience as an independent commissioner are presented below.

Independent RMA Commissioner (Chair), Corder Park public toilet application, Nelson City Council (2021). Sole commissioner considering an application for the construction of a toilet block in Corder Park. The key issue was that the park was within the coastal inundation layer.

Freshwater Commissioner, Ministry for the Environment (2020 – ongoing). Ministerial appointment under the Freshwater Planning process included as part of the RMA amendments. My role will be to sit on freshwater hearings panels, hearing submissions and making recommendations in accordance with Part 4 - Subpart 1 of the Resource Management Act 2020.

Independent RMA Commissioner, Puke Coal Ltd discharge application, Waikato Regional Council (2020 – 2021). Water quality expert on a 3 person panel considering an application by Puke Coal Mine Ltd to renew its discharge consents associated with operation of its coal mine in Huntly (Waikato). The principal technical issues considered were water quality discharge limits, odour and duration of consent. Chair: Philip Mitchell.

Independent RMA Commissioner, NRSBU Bell Island Wastewater Treatment Plant reconstenting, Tasman District Council (2019-2020). Water quality expert on a 3 person panel considering an application by Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit (NRSBU) to renew its discharge consents associated with operation of the Bell Island Wastewater Treatment Plant in Nelson. The principal technical issues considered were water quality discharge limits, odour and duration of consent. Chair: Sharon McGarry.

Independent RMA Commissioner, Matamata Metals reconstenting, Waikato Regional Council (2018-2019). Environmental science expert on a 3 person panel considering an application by Matamata Metals (J Swap) to renew its discharge consents (air quality, water, land) associated with operation of its Matamata quarry. The principal technical issues considered were water quality discharge limits and cultural values. Chair: Murray Kivell.

Independent Commissioner, Special Tribunal for the Ngaruroro and Clive Rivers, Hawkes Bay (2017-2019). I was appointed by the Minister for the Environment to a position on this 5 person Special Tribunal. The purpose of the tribunal was to consider an application for a Water Conservation Order (WCO) under the RMA on Hawke's Bay's Ngaruroro and Clive rivers. The application was made by New Zealand Fish and Game Council, Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council, Ngāti Hori ki Kohupatiki, Whitewater New Zealand, Jet Boating New Zealand, and the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand. This was a complex and challenging hearing, with more than 1000 submissions, with 100s wishing to be heard. The decision was made to grant a WCO over the upper part of the river, based on a range of outstanding values (including aesthetic, recreational and fisheries). Chair: Richard Fowler QC.

Independent RMA Commissioner, Silver Fern Farms reconstenting, Waikato Regional Council (2016). Environmental science expert on a 2 person panel considering an application by Silver Fern Farms to renew its discharge consents associated with operation of its Te Aroha meat processing plant. The principal technical issues considered were water quality discharge limits. Chair: Craig Shearer.

Independent RMA Commissioner, Fonterra-Tirau reconstenting, Waikato Regional Council (2016). Environmental science expert on a 2 person panel considering an application by Fonterra to renew its discharge consents associated with operation of its Tirau dairy facility. The principal technical issues considered were water quality and ecology, as well as duration of consent. Chair: Rob Van Voorthuysen.

HSNO Committee member (2015-current) - I am an appointed member of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Committee, which makes decisions on applications under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996. Decision Making Committees (DMC) are formed from a pool of 8 decision makers for each individual application. The types of resource management issues that I have been required to consider include the proposed introduction of biocontrol agents for pest or disease control, the registration for use of a range of pesticides and fungicides, and the approval of alternative, more environmentally-friendly chemicals, such as vehicle heat transfer fluids. These are evaluated for potential risks to the environment, human health, the relationship of Māori to the environment, society,

community, and to the market economy. Currently I am involved in several nationally significant applications associated with the timber industry.

Application of the RMA

Much of my work is conducted within the RMA space, through my role providing technical support to regional and local council consenting officers (including reviewing the adequacy of scientific information provided in support of consent applications), preparing and presenting evidence on behalf of regional councils, developers, iwi, and undertaking scientific investigations in support of resource consent applications by industry and private developers. I regularly undertake technical reviews of resource consent applications for Waikato Regional Council and also provide this service to a range of councils throughout New Zealand. A selection of project examples is presented below.

Ravensdown Fertiliser, Reconsenting of wastewater discharge consents for Ravensdown Napier plants, Napier (2020-current). Freshwater ecology and ecotoxicology expert, responsible for scoping and conducting scientific investigations and producing a report that will contribute to an Assessment of Ecological Effects report.

Technical review of the Napier marine wastewater outfall seepage resource consent, Napier City Council (2020). Peer review of report detailing monitoring undertaken to assess the current and potential ongoing effects of a seepage from the Napier wastewater treatment plant marine outfall pipe. This report was prepared by Napier City Council as part of a variation to their resource consent.

Technical review of Glencoal's Maramarua Mine Proposed Water Quality Monitoring Programme Changes, Waikato Regional Council (2020). Reviewed the scientific justification to vary resource consent conditions associated with an existing lake monitoring programme and provided a recommendation to the Council officer.

Kinleith Mill reconsenting, Tokoroa, Oji Fibre Solutions (2019-2021). Project manager and freshwater expert for reconsenting Kinleith Mill's waste water discharge consents, coordinating investigations on mixing dynamics, stream ecology, water quality and contaminants in sediment and eel tissue. Responsible for drafting an Ecological Effects Report.

Reconsenting of wastewater discharge consents for Motenui and Waitara Valley plants, Taranaki, Methanex Ltd (2020). Aquatic (marine and freshwater) ecology and ecotoxicology expert, responsible for scoping and conducting scientific investigations. After initial investigations this project was discontinued as a consequence of the effects of Covid19 and the changing priorities of the client.

Healthy Rivers Plan Change 1, Expert Witness on Shallow lakes, Hamilton, Department of Conservation (2019). Prepared and presented evidence on the department's submission on the implications of the proposed plan change for the management and sustainability of Waikato's shallow lakes.

Provision of support to s42a officer on potential ecological effects of expansion of Martha Mine, Waihi, Waikato Regional Council (2019). Project included peer review of assessment of effects report submitted as part of resource consent applications, production of a report to assist development of the section 42a report. Also includes attendance at hearing to provide technical support to the Hearings Panel and contribution to consent conditions.

Provision of support to s42a officer on potential ecological effects of accidental and overflow discharges of untreated sewerage to the Waimea Estuary, Nelson, Nelson City Council (2017 – 2018). Project included peer review of assessment of effects report submitted as part of resource consent applications, expert conferencing and production of a report to assist development of the section 42a report. Also included attendance at hearing as technical expert for Council, as well as review of consent conditions.

Freshwater and estuarine ecology¹

Warkworth WWTP discharge consent - ecological assessment for short-term consent, Watercare Services Ltd (2021). Undertook water quality trend analyses and drafted Ecological Effects report to support an application for resource consent for the Warkworth WWTP discharge consents.

Snells-Algies WWTP discharge consent - ecological assessment for variation to short-term consent, Watercare Services Ltd (2021 - 2021). Undertook water quality trend analyses and drafted Ecological Effects report to support an application for a variation to the Snells-Algies WWTP discharge consents.

Healthy Rivers Plan Change 1, Expert Witness on Shallow lakes, Hamilton, Department of Conservation (2019) Prepared and presented evidence on the department's submission on the implications of the proposed plan change for the management and sustainability of Waikato's shallow lakes.

SEV applicability to Waikato Regional Council Freshwater Ecosystem Services project, Waikato Regional Council (2018 - 2021) Assessed the applicability of the Stream Ecological Valuation (SEV) methodology as a semi-quantitative framework from which to derive functional scores of Freshwater Ecosystem Services (FWES) using the Waikato Regional Council's (WRC) State of the Environment (SOE) monitoring data.

Ecotoxicology¹

HSNO Committee member, 2015 - present. As above

Technical Audit – Ngāti Tūwharetoa Geothermal Assets (NTGA) – Discharge to Tarawera River, Bay of Plenty Regional Council (2020-2021). Provided ecotoxicology expertise to s42a officer on an application to extend a consent to discharge spent geothermal fluids to the Tarawera River. My role was to review the ecotoxicological report supporting the application for adequacy, identify any information gaps and review any new information arising from my initial review. I also commented on proposed consent conditions.

Reconsenting of wastewater discharge consents for Motenui and Waitara Valley plants, Methanex Ltd, Taranaki (2020). Aquatic (marine and freshwater) ecology and ecotoxicology expert, responsible for scoping and conducting scientific investigations. After initial investigations this project was discontinued as a consequence of the effects of Covid19 and the changing priorities of the client.

Chatham Rock Phosphate deep sea mining proposal, Expert Witness, Ngai Tahu (2014). Ecotoxicology expert on a submission by Ngai Tahu (as submitter) on the application to mine phosphorite nodules on the Chatham Rise. Provided an assessment of potential ecotoxicity associated with the proposal, as well as a review of methods employed by the applicant to determine toxicity.

Determining the contaminant health risk of kai moana, kai roto and kai awa, Health Research Council of New Zealand (2007-2011). Lead investigator for a research project aimed at characterising the risks to Māori associated with consuming kai collected from rivers, lakes and coastlines. Using quantitative risk assessment methods, we developed guidelines for safe consumption of a range of aquatic fauna and flora species, focusing on potentially at-risk communities (Rotorua, Temuka) and employing culturally-focused methods. A large part of the role was in building and maintaining relationships with our iwi partners and participants.

¹In addition to those listed under the Application of the RMA section.

Publication list available on request