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SUBMISSION BY RAUKAWA CHARITABLE TRUST ON WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN – PROPOSED PLAN  
CHANGE 2 – TAUPŌ OVERSEER VERSION

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## **Raukawa Charitable Trust Submission on Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 2: Lake Taupō Overseer Version**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This submission is provided on behalf of the Raukawa Charitable Trust (the Trust) on the Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 2: Lake Taupō Overseer Version.
- 1.2 The Raukawa Settlement Trust (RST) has delegated responsibility for the management of environmental and resource management activities to the Trust.
- 1.3 Therefore the Trust represents Raukawa as the iwi authority for resource management purposes.
- 1.4 The Trust notes that the Streamlined Planning Process (SPP) does not provide for a hearing but is happy to participate in any mediation should this occur.
- 1.5 The Trust has an interest in Proposed Plan Change 2 that is greater than the interest, the general public has.

### **2.0 RAUKAWA**

- 2.1 Raukawa is a large iwi associated with a significant area of the central north island that is rich in natural and cultural heritage. The Raukawa takiwā is represented by four traditional rohe: Te Pae O Raukawa, Wharepūhunga, Maungatautari and Te Kaokaoroa O Pātetere. Today marae within the Maungatautari area represent their own interests.
- 2.2 The RST represents 16 marae and was formed in 2009, as the Post Settlement Governance Entity for Raukawa.
- 2.3 The Raukawa takiwā is from Te Wairere, Horohoro, and Pōhaturoa. At Ongāroto is the house of the ancestor Whāita. From Nukuhau to Taupō-nui-a-Tia, to Hurakia on the Hauhungaroa Range. From Titiraupenga mountain, the horizon is the boundary of the district of Raukawa. To the mountain Wharepūhunga and the marae at Arowhena. To the ranges of Whakamaru. The view extends to the region of Te Kaokaoroa-o-Pātetere. To Maungatautari. The view extends beyond Wharepūhunga to the ancestor Hoturoa to the marae at Pārāwera.
- 2.4 Raukawa view Te Pae o Raukawa as one of the rohe or districts of Raukawa, Te Pae o Raukawa includes a substantial area of land which extends south to the lands bordering the north-western shores of Lake Taupō, including Tātua and Whangamatā, Te Tihoi, Waihāhā and Hauhungaroa.

### **3.0 RAUKAWA CHARITABLE TRUST POSITION**

- 3.1 The Trust understands that the purpose of Plan Change 2 is to address a technical issue with the way in which the Regional Plan refers to Overseer. The Trust understands that the reason for the plan change is because the version of Overseer that is referred to in the rules is going to expire in December this year, and at that point the rules in the Regional Plan will no longer be able to be applied. Therefore the plan change seeks to update the way the rules work, so that instead of referring to a version of Overseer, it will refer to a 'reference dataset' for each farm which would

be established and could be input into any version of Overseer. The net result of this, as Raukawa understands it, is to ensure that farmers can continue to farm in the way they currently do, or make future changes as long as their Nitrogen leaching doesn't increase, and they can continue to trade Nitrogen as well (which the current plan allows).

- 3.2 The Trust also understands that in terms of wider environmental impacts e.g. on the Waikato River, the plan change is basically neutral. The plan change seeks to ensure the existing environmental objectives are still met (i.e. by reducing the amount of Nitrogen going into the lake).
- 3.3 The Trust broadly accepts that the current plan change is not able to make additional changes to the rules to enable better environmental outcomes to be achieved, as this will require a wider review of the Taupo rules, which will occur during the full Regional Plan review currently underway.
- 3.4 As such, the Trust is largely supportive of the Plan Change on the basis that the environmental results anticipated through the existing Plan provisions, will largely be unaffected by the Plan Change.
- 3.5 However, there are two rules which this plan change doesn't attempt to update which are:
  - 3.10.5.4 – this allows for an additional 11,000 kg of Nitrogen per year on undeveloped and forested Tūwharetoa land (if it is Māori land within the meaning of section 4 of the Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993);
  - 3.10.5.5 – allows for an additional 3,100kg/N/yr on other land that is in forestry or undeveloped.
- 3.6 These rules are not updated as part of the plan change and therefore would cease to be applicable after December 2020. The plan change seeks to add an advisory note to these to say that they can no longer be used but will be reviewed. The intention is that these will be reviewed as part of the Regional Plan review.
- 3.7 The Trust notes that Māori land has historically suffered impediments to development. The current provisions acknowledge this and provide a future ability to develop land that may otherwise be disadvantaged through its current lack of development. Raukawa is therefore uncomfortable that these provisions will cease to be applicable as at December 2020, with no confirmed timeframe for when alternative provisions may be in place via the Regional Plan review.
- 3.8 Whilst Raukawa understands that a significant change to these rules cannot be easily addressed as part of this technical plan change, nevertheless there would appear to be other options that could be utilised. For example, a reference dataset for a typical farm could be developed as a model which could then be used to establish additional nitrogen allowances for undeveloped or forestry land under the new Overseer model, equivalent to the provisions in the existing rules 3.10.5.4 and 3.10.5.5.

#### 4.0 CONCLUSION

4.0 **Relief sought:** The Trust supports the plan change in part. The Trust seeks that Waikato Regional Council provide an alternative mechanism through which the additional nitrogen allowances under rules 3.10.5.4 and 3.10.5.5 can be protected in the interim until alternative provisions developed as part of the Regional Plan review can be notified.

4.1 Raukawa are interested in participating in any mediation that may occur as part of this Plan Change process. Raukawa also look forward to actively participating in the Regional Plan review where there will be an opportunity to add

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Eparaima', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Vanessa Eparaima  
Chair, Raukawa Charitable Trust

cc: Marian Ruri, Group Manager – Pūtake Taiao  
Urlwyn Trebilco – Waikato Regional Council