

**BEFORE THE**

Waikato Regional Council Hearing  
Commissioners

**IN THE MATTER**

of the Resource Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER**

of Waikato Regional Proposed Plan Change 1 –  
Waikato and Waipā River Catchments

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**STATEMENT OF EVELYN FORREST  
ON BEHALF OF TE ARAWA RIVER IWI TRUST IN RELATION TO THE  
HEARING TOPICS FOR HEARING BLOCK 1**

**(Submitter No. 74035)**

**15 FEBRUARY 2019**

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**WELLINGTON**

## INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Evelyn Forest, I have been appointed by the Ngati Tahu - Ngati Whaoa Runanga trust as a trustee of Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and am the Environmental Manager for the Ngati Tahu – Ngati Whaoa Runanga Trust.
2. I am also the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust appointee to the Healthy Rivers Waiora Committee, was a member of the collaborative stakeholder group and our whanau operate a farm in the catchment.
3. I am authorised to give this evidence on behalf of the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust.
4. The purpose and intent of this statement is to reinforce to the hearing panel the long standing and active affiliation to the Waikato river and it's local environs, that Te Arawa River Iwi have.
5. The Te Arawa River Iwi Trust has its genesis in the Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010. The Trust represents the three Te Arawa River Iwi, who assert manawhenua, kaitiakitanga, ahi kā, and mana whakahaere over the Waikato River and its tributaries that run through our rohe.
6. Te Arawa River Iwi Trust represents:
  - (a) Ngāti Kearoa-Ngāti Tuara whose traditional lands include Horohoro. Their principal waterway is the Pokaitū stream just north of Pōhaturoa
  - (b) Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa whose tribal boundaries lie between Te Waiheke o Huka (Huka Falls) and Pōhaturoa at Ātiamuri and extend to the Kāingaroa Plains
  - (c) Tūhourangi-Ngāti Wāhiao whose lands include the Rotomahana Parekārangi block and the Whirinaki Stream, which forms Lake Ohakurī.
7. A map setting out the Area of interest for the Te Arawa River Iwi is set out in Annexure A.

## **BACKGROUND**

8. The Waikato River flows from its source on the south side of Ruapehu to Te Pūaha o Waikato (the mouth) and includes its waters, banks and beds (and all minerals under them) and its streams, waterways, tributaries, lakes, fisheries, vegetation, floodplains, wetlands, islands, springs, geothermal springs, water column, airspace, substratum, and mauri.
9. The Waikato River and its catchment is a resource of great cultural, historical, traditional and spiritual significance to the people of Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa, Ngāti Kearoa-Ngāti Tuarā and Tuhourangi-Ngāti Wāhiao.
10. Our relationship with the Waikato River and its tributaries, and our respect for it, gives rise to our responsibilities to protect the River and all it encompasses, and to exercise our mana whakahaere in accordance with long established tikanga to ensure the wellbeing of the River.
11. We continue to exercise our mana, along with customary rights, and exert the rights and responsibilities of kaitiakitanga in relation to the Waikato Awa within our rohe.
12. All of our natural resources (including the Waikato River and its tributaries) are taonga and integral to our tribal identities; the mauri of the people and the mauri of our waterways is indivisible. Therefore, and according to our tikanga, kawa and whakapapa, the Te Arawa River Iwi are responsible for the protection and management of our taonga and we long to see the restoration of the mauri of our waterways.
13. Importantly, legislation also affirms that we never agreed to cede our authority over or rights in the River or tributaries.

## **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

14. Our focus is the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. It is the river that links everything; not only the surrounding resources and the people that it sustains but also the past, the present and the future.

15. Te Arawa River Iwi Trust advocates a more holistic and integrated approach to environmental management to reflect the Māori worldview of interconnectedness within, and between the natural environment and ourselves. We all need to work together more, to take a shared interest in, and responsibility for our environment. We all benefit if our land, rivers, streams and groundwater aquifers are healthy.
16. Te Arawa River Iwi Trust acknowledges the dual position of Te Arawa River Iwi – not only as protectors of the environment but also as land developers for farming, forestry, power generation and tourism.

## **OUR APPROACH**

17. Our Vision - To support Te Arawa River Iwi collectively and individually to assert mana awa and improve the health and wellbeing of the Waikato river, tributaries and environs.
18. Our Mission - Asserting our mana whenua, kaitiakitanga, ahi kā and mana whakahaere to restore the health and wellbeing of the Waikato river, tributaries and environs.
19. Our Strategic Objectives:
  - (a) Mana Tangata: Enabling our people to participate in the restoration and protection of the Waikato River, tributaries and environs;
  - (b) Mana Taiao: Implementing measures to restore and protect the Waikato tributaries and environs; and
  - (c) Mana Matauranga: Upholding tikanga, preserving wahi tupuna and enhancing matauranga of Te Arawa River Iwi.
20. Our values in relation to the Waikato River include:

Kaitiakitanga      *Guardianship, stewardship sustainability*

Kotahitanga      *unity, collaboration*

Mana whakahaere *tribal mandate, authority, ability [to determine usage of the resource]*

Mana whenua *tribal authority over land or territory*

Manākitanga *hospitality, kindness towards others*

Pono *truth, honesty*

Rangimārie *peaceful*

Tika *fair, correct*

Whakapapa *geneology, lineage, connection*

Whakapūmautanga *To establish or confirm the mana or authority of the Iwi*

## **OUR ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE WAIKATO RIVER**

21. Each of the Te Arawa River Iwi have special and unique relationships and associations with the Waikato River.

### **Ngāti Kearoa-Ngāti Tuara**

*Ko Horohoro te maunga*

*Ko Pokaitū te awa*

*Ko Ngāti Kea, Ngāti Tuarā ngā karanga hapū Ko Te Arawa te waka*

22. Ngāti Kearoa descends from Kearoa, the wife of the tohunga, Ngatoroirangi. Ngāti Tuarā are descended from Tuarā, a female descendant of Ika who came on the Te Arawa waka. In the tribal history, 'Ngā Kōrero a Ngāti Kea Ngāti Tuarā' it states, "Today the distinction between the two hapū has been dropped and all the people regard

themselves as members of the joint hapū, Ngāti Kea and Ngāti Tuarā. The two lines of descent come together in the union of Rangiwāhita and Te Uira. They had four children: Kamotu, Te Kaiamo, Kokohu and Hinengaru”.

23. The traditional rohe of Ngāti Kearoa-Ngāti Tuarā falls partly within the Waikato River catchment. Within that catchment, the relevant land blocks over which Ngāti Kearoa-Ngāti Tuarā hold traditional interests include Patetere South, Tikorangi, Horohoro and part of the Tokoroa Block eastward of a line from the western tip of the Patetere South Block to the point Te Uaura on the boundary of the Tokoroa and WhakamaruMaungaiti Blocks.
24. The lands at Horohoro and Patetere South have been continuously occupied by Ngāti Kearoa and Ngāti Tuarā for generations.
25. The three marae of Ngāti Kearoa and Ngāti Tuarā are Kearoa Marae, Rongomaipapa and Tarewa.
26. Our significant waterways include:
  - (a) Pokaitū Stream and its tributaries
  - (b) Mangaharakeke Stream
  - (c) Tauwhare, Whakaiongo, Tikitiki, Pukerimu, Opakau, Te Roto and Pokaiwhenua Streams (Patetere South Block)
  - (d) Kurarawa, Tuarākereru and Waimaruru Streams.

### **Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa**

*Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa*

*Mai i Te Waiheke o Huka, whakarawhiti atu ki te mania o Kaingaroa Ko te tihī o  
Maunga Kākaramēa*

*Putā atu ki te Pae Maunga o Paeroa*

*Orākei Kōrako Te Ukaipo*

*Tai rawa atu ki Pōhaturoa*

27. The origins of “Tahu Matua” the eponymous ancestor of the Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa people can be traced back to his arrival on the shores of Aotearoa-New Zealand in 1250AD. His migration to these shores took place more than a century prior to the arrival of the Arawa, Mataatua and Tainui waka. Acclaimed historians (Māori and non-Māori) generally accept that these waka arrived in Aotearoa-New Zealand circa 1350AD.
28. Tahu Matua navigated the central North Island on a journey of discovery, finally domiciling himself and his people on the banks of the Waikato River at Orākei Kōrako, the ukaipo (birthplace) of the descendants of Tahu Matua. The Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa Iwi are a river people having occupied the lands adjacent to and extending beyond the Waikato River for more than 750 years.
29. No other Waikato River Iwi has held reign (Mana Whenua) over such an extensive tribal area for that length of time. It is generally accepted that Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa are the only remaining aboriginal tribe since the arrival of new migrants who arrived on board the Arawa, Mataatua and Tainui waka.
30. The tribal domain (Mana Whenua) enjoyed by Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa from the period of 1250AD, extended from the northern shores of Lake Taupō to the southern shores of Lake Rotorua. This domain was reduced slightly as new migrants took up permanent residency on the southern shores of Lake Rotorua from circa 1575, and the northern shores of Lake Taupō from circa 1750AD. Today the tribal estate of Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa now extends from: Te Waiheke o Huka (Huka Falls) to the south. Eastward to Ngapuketerua beyond the Rangitaiki River. Northward across the plains of Kaingaroa to Wairapukao and further on to Pekepeke. Turning west and on to Maunga Kākaramaea. Then further west on to the Paeroa Ranges, and on further to Orākei Kōrako, the birthplace of the Iwi. From Orākei Kōrako we extend further northwest to Pōhaturua an ancient Pa site adjacent to the Waikato River.
31. 75% of the Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa tribal estate falls within the upper Waikato River Catchment. Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa continues to discharge its responsibilities as the Kaitiaki and Mana Whenua over the upper Waikato River catchment from Pōhaturua to Huka.

32. The Iwi have four marae within the rohe. Three are located on the banks of the Waikato River (Ohaki Marae, Waimahana Marae and Te Toke Marae). Matārae Marae is located adjacent to the Mangahoanga stream.
33. The Waikato River has always been a taonga to our Iwi, along with its many tributaries and wetlands; its pristine waters a source of physical and spiritual wellbeing.
34. Natural lakes within our rohe include Ngāhewa, Ngāpōuri/Opōuri, Tutaeinanga , Rotowhero, Whangioterangi, Ngaakoro, Orotū and Rotokawa. Hydro Lakes within our rohe are formed by dams on the Waikato River at Ātiamuri, Ohakurī and Ātiamuri.
35. Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa had many kainga, cultivations and burial caves along the banks of the Waikato River. The River provided many benefits to our people and our close connection is illustrated by the significant number of places held sacred along the river and its tributaries from Te Waiheke o Huka to Pōhaturoa.

#### **Tuhourangi-Ngati Wahiao**

36. The Tuhourangi Area of Interest extends from Moerangi (forming the northern boundary and encompassing the Whakarewarewa Forest) to Haparangi and the Horohoro bluffs to the west, south to Kākaramea or Rainbow Mountain and the eastern identity of Ruawāhia, more commonly referred to as Mount Tarawera.
37. The cultural, spiritual, historic and traditional association of Tuhourangi with the Waikato River catchment and its resources has long been set down by renowned tribal historian, Mita Taupopoki. In his description of the Tuhourangi-Ngāti Wāhiao tribal rohe, he referred to the Waikato River:

*“...to Rahopaka Stream, thence down said stream along the rohe of Te Whakamaru Block to Ngapopoia-o-Tore, thence to Ohakurī, thence on the Waikato River to Te Motuwhanake, Wharerarauhe, thence it turns east...”*

38. The Tuhourangi-Ngāti Wāhiao interests in the catchment include part of the Waikato River commencing upstream at the mouth of the Akatarewa Stream downstream to the Ohakurī Road crossing, and includes part of the south western boundary of the former Rotomahana Parekārangi 6A Block.
39. The Tuhourangi Tribal Authority represents the interests of 14 hapū: The marae of Tuhourangi are Te Pakira (Whakarewarewa), Apumoana (Lynmore), Hinemihi (Ngapuna) and Tuhourangi (Rangiuru).
40. Our significant waterways include but are not limited to the Whirinaki Stream and its tributaries; Pokaitu Stream and Kapenga Swamp.

### **OUR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

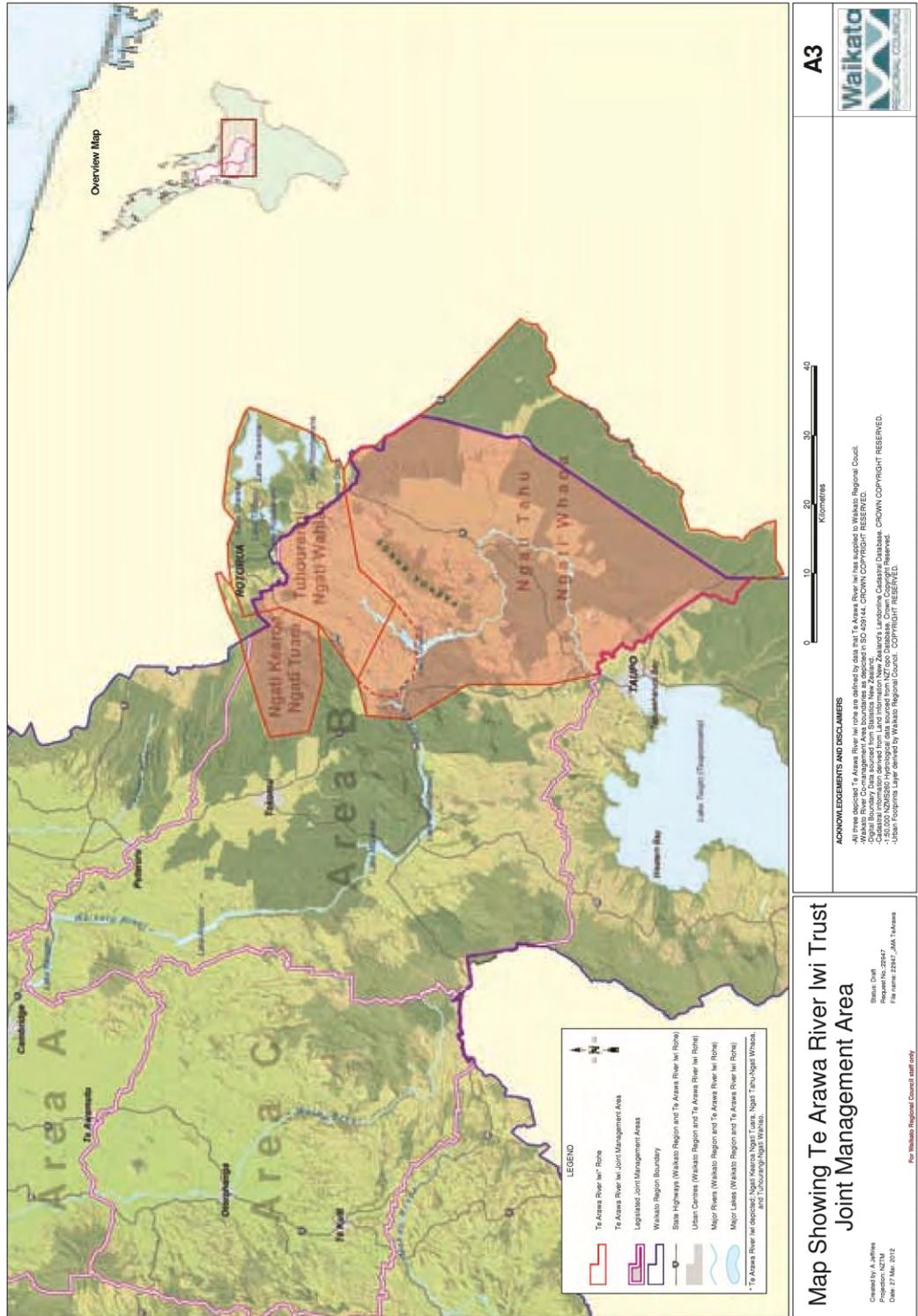
41. Te Arawa Iwi River Trust has an operative Environmental Management Plan. The key provisions from that Plan are set out in Annexure B.

### **CONCLUSION**

42. Te Arawa River Iwi are actively involved in integrated catchment management, planning and decision making relating to the Waikato River and its tributaries
43. Our objective is to ensure that the mauri of land is restored and enhanced such that:
  - (a) The health of Waikato River and its tributaries is not compromised as a result of land use and development;
  - (b) Appropriate land use activities align with the capability of the land;
  - (c) Riparian margins, wetlands, lakes and mahinga kai resources are protected and restored.
  - (d) Sites and areas of significance to Te Arawa River Iwi located adjacent to Waikato River are protected.

*Look after mother nature and she'll look after you. Recognise when she is stressed and work with her as naturally as possible to achieve a sustainable environment – R Mihinui*

# ANNEXURE A



## APPENDIX B

1. Ensure active involvement of Te Arawa River Iwi in resource management processes and decisions that relate to the Waikato River and its tributaries.
  - (a) Local Authorities to:
    - (i) Recognise and provide for matauranga and tikanga in resource management processes and decisions that relate to the Waikato River and its tributaries.
    - (ii) Take into account joint management agreements with TARIT when making resource management decisions that relate to the Waikato river and its tributaries.
    - (iii) Recognise and provide for the rights of runanga, hapu and whanau to speak on matters that affect them.
    - (iv) Take into consideration the economic and social benefits of Maori Land development.
    - (v) Enable the transfer of functions, powers or duties (s33 RMA) relating to the development and management of ancestral lands, waters and geothermal resources within the TARIT Area of Interest.
2. Te Arawa River Iwi are actively involved in freshwater management and decision-making relating to the Waikato River and its tributaries.
3. The interests and values of Te Arawa River Iwi associated with the Waikato River and its tributaries are acknowledged and reflected in resource management policy, processes and decision.
4. The health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its tributaries is restored and enhanced so that:
  - (a) Water is clean enough for mahinga kai, drinking and swimming;
  - (b) Freshwater fisheries and customary resources are protected;

- (c) Waterways can be accessed for customary use e.g. food gathering;
  - (d) Riparian margins, wetlands, lakes and mahinga kai resources are protected and restored.
- 5. There is enough freshwater for drinking, land use, recreational and cultural use, while sustaining associated ecosystem.
- 6. Ensure active involvement of Te Arawa River Iwi in resource management processes and decision that relate to the Waikato River and its tributaries.
  - (a) Local authorities to:
    - (i) Recognise and provide for matauranga and tikanga in resource management processes and decision that relate to the Waikato River and its tributaries.
    - (ii) Take into account joint management agreements with TARIT when making resource management decision that affect or relate to the Waikato River and its tributaries.
    - (iii) Take into consideration the economic, cultural and social benefits of Maori land development and associated water requirements.
- 7. TARIT to advocate that further degradation of water quality within the Waikato River and its tributaries is avoided.
- 8. TAIRT to work with Te Arawa River Iwi and Local Authorities to ensure that Te Arawa River Iwi are not unfairly disadvantaged in relation to accessing water for papkainga and Maori land development.
- 9. Ensure that TARIT and Te Arawa River Iwi are actively involved in the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, particularly policy development and decision making.
  - (a) Waikato Regional Council keeps TARIT informed and involved in the work programme for the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.

- (b) TARIT to keep Te Arawa River Iwi informed and involved in relation to the work programme for the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.
- (c) Waikato Regional Council carries out early, meaningful and ongoing engagement with Te Arawa River Iwi, especially in relation to:
  - (i) Identifying and incorporating Te Arawa River Iwi values and interests into freshwater policy development and decisions;
  - (ii) Setting water quantity and quality limits;
  - (iii) Dealing with point source and non-point source discharges;
  - (iv) Dealing with water allocation and use, particularly in fully allocated catchments;
  - (v) Providing allocation use by Te Arawa River Iwi.
- (d) Waikato Regional Council to consider TARIT for any advisory panel or working group associated with freshwater policy development within the TARIT Area of Interest.