

Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Submission - Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1

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Statement: I could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

My submission is that **I SUPPORT THE PLAN CHANGE 1 IN PRINCIPAL** & make the following statements:

Ngati Huri Hapū, Raukawa Iwi:

- 1.1 As a direct descendant of Raukawa & Ngati Huri Hapū I have a close affiliation to the Waikato River & its tributaries within the Raukawa takiwā. I am a principal kuia of Ngati Huri & Pikitū Marae as well as a long serving trustee on the Te Raparahi Lands Trust & Ngati Huri Whenua Tōpu Trust both of whom are Ahu Whenua Trusts under the **Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993**. I am also the only original trustee on the Ahu Whenua Trust of Te Hanga South Trust whose catchment falls into the Waihou River area not covered by this **Proposed Plan Change 1** but still under the jurisdiction of the Waikato Regional Council.
- 1.2 I am also a passionate advocate for our environment & helped to establish the **Ngati Huri Pikitū Marae Rautaki Taiao Environmental Management Plan** in 2010 as well as **Te Rautaki Taiao a Raukawa – Raukawa Environmental Management Plan 2015**.
- 1.3 The Waikato River is a taonga to Ngati Huri whanau which we recognise as the blood stream flowing through the veins of our tupuna Atua Papatūānuku. It enhances our tribal mana & is revered in our pepeha “Tainui te Waka, Wharepuhunga te Maunga, Waikato te Awa, Raukawa te Iwi, Ngati Huri te Hapū. He piko he taniwha, he piko he taniwha, Waikato Taniwharau!”
- 1.4 For Ngati Huri Hapū we have been proactive in asserting our kaitiakitanga responsibilities which are woven within our customary assertion of mana whakahaere & have spent the last 3 years fencing off & planting natives along the **Mangaorua River** which used to be the tribal source of sustenance flowing past the Pikitū Marae & into the Waikato River.
- 1.5 I consider it imperative that the **Waikato Regional Proposed Plan Change 1** – Waikato & Waipa Catchments continue to pursue the journey toward achieving the long-term objectives required by **Te Ture Whaimana** so that those working at the grassroots end can have certainty of Whole of River Health & Wellbeing.

Treaty Settlements:

- 2.1 Te Ture Whaimana is a fundamental element of the settlement & co-management agreements River Iwi have signed with the Crown and are reflected in legislation. Therefore, I ask that Waikato Regional Council take leadership in protecting these settlement & co-management agreements & adopt the **Proposed Plan Change 1** in its entirety but remain open to recommendations as noted in River Iwi Joint submissions & Raukawa Iwi submissions.
- 2.2 The Raukawa Settlement Trust has my full confidence in protecting the co-governance relationship with the Waikato Regional Council to jointly co-manage the Waikato & Waipa Rivers as well as catchments & tributaries. The on-going co-governance role in the wider Healthy Rivers Wai Ora project will give me confidence that Ngati Huri whanau can be assured of a positive commitment by those parties legally required to protect & enhance our natural resources as mentioned in clause 1.4 above.

Ngati Huri Pikitū Marae Unique Position:

- 3.1 As an active leader of Ngati Huri Hapū & Pikitū Marae including trusteeship on ancestral lands, I have always been disturbed at the fact that multiply-owned Maori land has always suffered impediments to development & note that this will not diminish through the notification of the **Proposed Plan Change 1**. It sets a high threshold for resource consent in relation to developing this land.

- 3.2 Because Ngati Huri lands are relatively undeveloped or under-developed, it has not contributed significantly to the discharge of contaminants into the Waikato and Waipā Rivers. The contribution of Māori land—in offsetting the discharge of contaminants from other developed land— should be recognised and accounted for at some stage in the future. Further, the investment made by landowners, particularly the owners of Ngati Huri lands, to reduce contaminants discharged from land use should also be recognised and protected.

Implementation:

- 4.1 I understand that detailed implementation of **Proposed Plan Change 1** by Waikato Regional Council is critical to the relative success of the Plan. I draw your attention to the importance of building capacity and capability of Waikato Regional Council (including the necessary systems and human resources) to give effect to the methods set out in **Proposed Plan Change 1**.
- 4.2 Monitoring the effectiveness of **Proposed Plan Change 1** is critical to giving myself & Ngati Huri whanau confidence that we are on target to achieving the short-term objectives and tracking positively towards achieving Te Ture Whaimana in 80-years.
- 4.3 I also have confidence that the Waikato & Waipa River Iwi co-governors will actively participate in co-designing any new requirements around the allocation rights to discharge contaminants to achieve the desired outcome of this whole **Proposed Plan Change 1**.

Support to Joint River Iwi & Raukawa Settlement Trust Submissions:

- 5.1 I fully support the submissions presented by the Raukawa Settlement Trust to the **Proposed Plan Change 1**
- 5.2 I fully support the joint submissions presented by the Waikato Raupatu River Trust, the Maniapoto Maori Trust Board, the Raukawa Charitable Trust, The Tuwharetoa Maori Trust & the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust.

Hearing:

I am happy to be heard jointly with the Raukawa Settlement Trust



Ruthana Okeroa Begbie

8 March 2017