

*Nga hau e wha e haruru nei ki waho o Hokianga*

*Kei reira ra he wawata, tutaki wairua.*

**Response to Council proposal from Tauteihiihi Marae.**

*Ko Rangikawarawara te Maunga*

*Ko Waihoehoe te Awa*

*Ko Hokianga te Moana*

*Hokianga Whakapau Karakia*

*Ko Ngātokimatawhaorua te waka*

*Ko Ngapūhi te Iwi*

*Ko Te Ihutai te Hapū*

*Ko Tauteihiihi te Marae*

**We continue to stand against granting the application.**

Our position continues to be that no wastewater is discharged into the Hokianga Harbour. The proposed changes do not guarantee we can meet the needs of Mana Tiaki, Tikanga and Mauri. We resubmit the following that we are responsible to uphold.

- **Mana tiaki:** This is against mana tiaki of our marae and our hapū, the Waste Water Treatment Plant discharges into our kāpata kai. Continued degradation of our moana has meant we are not able to catch fish that were present when we were children with our now mokopuna. We collected bait by the light house using manuka branches as a brush and now this area is completely inaccessible. We used to spear flounder on the mud flats, but shell and rock has encroached and the tidal flat hardened which has led to our mahinga kai disappearing. The karahū we used to harvest are no longer there. We remember the Hokianga as a harbour, not as it is now a wide river. Not only is the moana our kapatā kai It is our highway, Te Ihutai stretches across the Narrows, from Kohukohu to Motukiore into the upper reaches of the harbour. The only suitable response would be to return the harbour to its former pristine state and a place where we can safely gather kai.
- **Tikanga:** Our tikanga – separation is required for waste and human activities. The only suitable response would be to ensure that our Tikanga is upheld.
- **Mauri:** Hokianga and the Waihoehoe, as our moana and awa are essential to our life, they are our pepeha, pūrākau and the waiata above and both have mauri. Our kōiwi, tohu and pā sites hug the harbour, describing our ahikā from Kupe and Nukutawhiti to the present and into the future.  
Disposal of wastewater into these spiritually significant bodies of water degrades the mauri of the moana the awa and us. The only suitable response is to guarantee that we are able to uphold the Mauri of the Hokianga.

Further, we still contend that the Far North District Council and the Northland Regional Council must commit to actions that support the mauri of the water – to be proactive in restoring and

improving the mauri of Hokianga and Waihoehoe. We consider it imperative that this is done in partnership with our marae.

- We are concerned that the Far North District Council has not consulted us before any work has taken place at the location of the Kohukohu sewage plant. This includes current works that have been completed during the submission process.
- We would like to draw attention to the fact that there has been no relationship between the Council and the marae. We cannot see the suggested proposal of having a Cultural Liaison Group as supporting such a relationship.
- As per our previous submission we see there as an opportunity there for the council to develop an appropriate strategy moving forward in "*Partnership*" with our marae. We submit that no roopu is developed without such consultation including a Cultural Liaison Group.