

26th of march 2018 at 3:45 pm Te Ahu, Kaitaia

To: Northland Regional Council Resource Consent
Hearing Panel: Motutangi-Waiharara Water Users
Group Application **REQ. 581172**

From: Gabriele Pfaender and speaker Edd Moses,
Karyn Kerr and more.

Kia Ora koutou, before I even start my presentation, I like to
ask Edd Moses to bless our intervention held over the
coming three days; Tika, Pono me te Aroha, me te Wairua.

Kia Ora Edd.

Thank you Edd.

Ngamihi nui ki te Atua,

Nga mihi nui ki te marae ki wacho, e takoto nei.

Nga mihi nui ki Te Tupuna o Ika Nui a Maui.

Nga mihi nui ki te tangata whenua tatokatoa,
nga mihi nui Dr Bruce Gregory raua ko Ross Gregory.
Nga mihi kia tatou katoa.

IN ADDITION TO MY ORIGINAL SUBMISSION

My name is Gabriele Pfaender and my extended whanu and I
have lived for over 20 years at Hukatere, close to 90 Mile

Beach. We run a successful business. Our only source of water is the groundwater from the aquifer. Our place is close to Waiharara and Houhora, where the MWWUG wants to undertake groundwater extraction at a daily volume of 16,431 m³. If you calculate this into a yearly extraction, it amounts to 2,124.850m³ of water.

Not everyone can relate to numbers but if you can visualize 730 water-tanks full of water; setting one water tank against another in one line, this would measure 2.5 km meters of water-tanks .

That is the amount of water per day that the MWWUG has applied to extract from the aquifer.

The yearly amount would be the equivalent to 95 thousand water tanks or a line of 330 kms of watertanks; this is the distance from Pukenui to Auckland.

We are extremely concerned that the volume of groundwater extraction, especially during dry summer periods may result in our well drying up and we are also concerned about salt-water intrusion. *The forests are already taking water* It is possible that the depletion and poisoning of our groundwater would also cause a backwash into the ocean.

We have warnings from Green Peace about Avocado Mono culture and the amount of water it requires.

In this context I just like to add that saltwater has been already accruing while drilling for water at Kaimaumau. Who will be responsible if saltwater gets into our well at Hukatere and who will pay water delivery of fresh water to Hukatere .

We depend on clean water from the aquifer. Especially in summer.

We have an accommodation and camping ground business and many tourists, and hikers from the Te Araroa hiking trek have stayed at our beautiful place. Our Lodge has been on TV shows locally and overseas. The tourist industry, a major economic factor in NZ, depends on a clean green landscape and clean water.

Further Helicopter spray and chemical spraying along the SH1 to Cape Reinga is not a good advertisement for the green clean image of New Zealand. Also the visual white plastic shelter over hundreds of hectares is visual pollution.

Our still pristine drinking water at Hukatere, is something that all guest and especially the hikers from the Te Araroa trek very much appreciate. The hikers are water conscious, as they have to carry most of their water for 30km.

Not only the hikers like fresh water, but also so the local people in Kaitaia.

I know of a lot of Kaitaia residents who buy water in bottles, because the water from the town supply has a strong taste of chlorine which is known to be toxic.

It came to my attention that the Kaitaia ratepayers have spent several million dollars for a bore to the aquifer to improve the town water supply. The Kaitaia community and ratepayers haven't seen a drop of water in their tap from the aquifer yet.

How can FNDC and FNRC miss the needs of people, but is able to grant a temporarily water consent to the MWWUG ? After eight years Kaitaia has not seen one drop of water out of the aquifer, but has invested several million of dollars.

I also seriously have to criticise the process of the “limited notification”. Contradicting the nature of water as it flows through boundaries and it does not seem to be limited?

Assuming we are living in a democracy I would have thought that all residents in the area where the aquifer runs, have a right of notification.

All things are connected and will have reaction in their time. Our communities that depend on the water from the aquifer will be affected of the result of a possible depletion, but have no say.

Bullying is something we do not encourage our children to do.

Motutangi-Waiharara Water User Group (MWWUG) have already drilled several deep wells and use water out of Waiharara and Motutangi area. This happened without consent and with the disagreement of the public. I am wondering if the FNDC and the FNRC promote bullying and socially irresponsible behaviour over the rights of the community?

The Growers assumed rights to the aquifers for a Non Sustainable Project and breached protocols.

There is nothing sustainable about these avocado orchards, both with the poisons and the obscene amount of water they want to use. Water that they would like us to believe will never run out if it is pumped out day after day, year after year.

But perhaps they are only here for the short term, until they have used all our resources and poisoned all our land and our people; whereas we and our mokupuna are here for life.

I believe if residents of the Far North were properly educated and informed on this issue, they would vote No.

Tourists come to the Far North looking for the clean green experience promised them by NZ Tourism. They do not come to be subjected to toxic sprays from helicopters or to spray drift from the ground.

Our only organic farm on Hukatere Road also has often to contend with helicopter spray without warning, polluting its produce.

Sprays include; fungicides, herbicides and insecticides which are neuro toxic, endocrine disrupters and carcinogenic to humans.

All of this is going into our precious ground and wetland water catchments. How much will end up in the Ocean?

Where are our rights to Clean Water, Clean Air and Clean Food?

People not profiting from these farms and those who ARE profiting KNOW the truth.

I am hearing words such as NO MORE THAN MINOR and WORST CASE SCENARIO being bandied about. What actually would the Worst Case Scenario look like? I want this question answered. What does No More than Minor mean? I want this question answered also.

We have an opportunity to reclaim the Far North and create an oasis of true sustainability. If we don't do it now it will be too late and our mokupuna will suffer the consequences.

Water is our most precious resource. All over the planet and in NZ it is being poisoned and contaminated by industry. The aquifer here is one of the last sources of clean water left.

A small aquifer in a small country at the end of the world. It is worth fighting for and we will not rest until it is protected.

NZ is a signatory to the UN Charter of Human Rights. If the Far North Regional Council gives consent to the depletion and poisoning of our water, it is surely in breach of Our Human Rights under the UN Charter.

Thank you for listening.