

Tapuwae Incorporation Resource Consent hearing korero, Rawene, 18/05/23

Wendy Henwood (Committee of Management member & Farm Company Director/Chair)

Intro

- Pepeha
- 2000 ha Maori land authority (1000 hapū shareholders) at head of Tapuwae awa, a tributary that feeds into Hokianga Nui a Kupe
- Same rohe as our hapū marae which spoke yesterday

Kaitiaki responsibilities

- Land returned to Ngai Tūpoto hapū 40 years ago
- We're a beef breeding, forestry, honey operation
- We take a 4-pou approach to what we do – all about the wellbeing of our people; cultural, social, environmental and economic
- Lots of regulations put on farmers, but local government seem to get away with non-compliance just the bare minimum to tick the boxes
- The message we get as farmers is that animal tiko is not ok, but human is ok?
- Take our kaitiakitanga responsibilities seriously around our waterways, eco-system & land use – we do it because of our values, it's the right thing to do, not because of compliance
- 35 km fenced, including our repo – the filter & kohanga for fish species & habitat for range of flora & fauna

Tautoko previous kaikorero & reiterate key points already made

- Our te ao Maori values don't align with the applicants – disrespectful of tangata whenua
- It is all one water – stop looking at issues in isolation – disregard for interconnectedness that includes ngā Atua, ngā tupuna, ngā tangata and all aspects of the taiao in the catchment – 4 systems, same deal
- You've heard over & over again the reasons for not accepting any human discharge to water (treated or not) – just stop it!
- As stated late yesterday in our marae submission - the applicants evidence acknowledge waste-water discharge as having a 'significant adverse effect on tangata whenua and the mauri of the wahapū', but then not included in their actions – don't worry, it's 'less than minor'!
- Same in RMA documents where our culture is noted as a "matter of national importance" – just lip service!
- Te Rarawa even has a Statutory Acknowledgement as part of our 2015 Treaty settlement that spells out the significance of the wahapū o Hokianga

Our expectations & conditions

- Marae/hapū/iwi/community must be part of decision-making – the basis for moving forward - it's not optional!
- Catchment-wide wahapū o Hokianga plan; acknowledge other contributors to the poor state of the wahapū – deforestation, some farms practices (fertilizer, run-off), forestry practices, sedimentation
- Working Group to develop a staged plan to discharge to land – electro-coagulation system for example sounds like a winner – it's not new, is used around the world, why so afraid??
- Factor Climate Change into plans – must be prepared; random weather events, increased storm water infiltration
- Explore added value/opportunities of land-based systems for the community – compost, worm farms, irrigation, septage, local management, employment

- Meaningful harbour-wide monitoring that includes cultural indicators – plenty of tried and true models (Cultural Health Index, Mauri etc) – it has to be more than just compliance requirements
- Stop the focus on cost and unsuitability of land - be creative, courageous, find ways

Same old, same old bottom line – discharge to land is the only acceptable solution to restore the health of our taonga. Tapuwae objects to the consent applications - we have & always will exercise our rangatiratanga & assert our mana whenua over these matters