

**BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT HEARING COMMISSIONERS ON
BEHALF OF NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL**

IN THE MATTER

of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER

24 individual resource consent applications for groundwater takes from the Aupouri Aquifer for horticultural irrigation.

APPLICANT

Resource consent applications by the Te Aupouri Commercial Development Ltd, Far North Avocados Ltd, P McLaughlin, NE Evans Trust & WJ Evans & J Evans, P & G. Enterprises (PJ & GW Marchant), MP Doody & DM Wedding, A Matthews, SE & LA Blucher, NA Bryan Estate, SG Bryan, CL Bryan, KY Bryan Valadares & D Bryan (Property No 1), MV Evans (Property No 2), MV Evans (Property No 1), Tuscany Valley Avocados Ltd (M Bellette), NA Bryan Estate, SG Bryan, CL Bryan, KY Bryan Valadares & D Bryan (Property No 2), Tiri Avocados Ltd, Valic NZ Ltd, Wataview Orchards (Green Charteris Family Trust), Mate Yelavich & Co Ltd, Robert Paul Campbell Trust, Elbury Holdings Ltd (C/- K J & F G King) for new groundwater takes from the Aupouri aquifer subzones: Houhora, Motutangi and Waiharara and applications by Waikopu Avocados Ltd, Henderson Bay Avocados Ltd, Avokaha Ltd (c/- K Paterson & A Nicholson), KSL Ltd (c/- S Shine), Te Rarawa Farming Ltd and Te Make Farms Ltd for increased existing consented takes from the Aupouri aquifer subzones: Houhora, Motutangi, Sweetwater and Ahipara.

STATEMENT OF THOMAS JOSEPH DRINAN

6 APRIL 2021

For the Director-General of Conservation:

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1. My full name is Thomas Joseph Drinan. I am employed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) as a Freshwater Technical Advisor. I have been in this position since March 2017.
2. I hold a Bachelor of Science (Applied Ecology) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree, both from University College Cork. For my PhD, I investigated the effects of conifer plantation forestry on the hydrochemistry and aquatic biota of peatland lakes.
3. Prior to my current position, I worked in consultancy roles with both EOS Ecology and Golder Associates (NZ) Limited. In those roles, I was involved in freshwater biomonitoring, ecological impact assessments, and waterway restoration, with a focus on freshwater fish and invertebrates. I was involved in aquatic ecology Assessments of Environmental Effects (AEE) for a wide range of resource consent applications. I have also published numerous peer-reviewed papers on lake ecosystems, and freshwater fish and invertebrate ecology.
4. I am a member of the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society.
5. I presented expert evidence in the Environment Court on Water Quantity matters associated with the Proposed Regional Plan for Northland (PRPN).
6. I participated in Expert Witness Conferencing in this matter, and signed the following 'Joint Witness Statements' (JWS):
 - JWS relating to hydrogeology, freshwater & ecology (dated 11 December 2020) (paragraphs 24 – 30 headed 'Surface Water and MALF'); and
 - JWS relating to shallow aquifer monitoring in relation to potential surface water impacts (dated 11 December 2020).

7. I confirm that I have read the code of conduct for expert witnesses as contained in section 7.1 of the Environment Court's Practice Note 2014, including Appendix 3 Protocol for Expert Witness Conferences and I have abided/agree to abide by it.



Thomas Joseph Drinan

Date: 6 April 2021