

RESOURCE APPLICATION APP.004007.01.03 FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL – RENEWAL
OF DISCHARGE CONSENTS FOR THE EAST COAST BAYS (TAIPA) WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT Main submission1

This presentation concerns the East Coast, Mangonui to Taipa Sewerage System, an unnamed drain and an unnamed stream that is a tributary of the Parapara River, Parapara River, Aurere Stream, Awapoko, Aurere Estuary and the surrounding environments plus any other named or unnamed waterway associated with the Parapara River.

1. My name is Victor Claud Holloway
2. I have a Certificate, a Diploma and a Bachelor of Arts in Iwi Environmental Resource Training (BA-IEMT) with Te Wananga O Aotearoa
3. I have read The Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the rules
4. I present this submission as a concerned citizen whilst acknowledging, I work for and, I affiliate to Parapara Marae & the Hapu of Ngati Tara
5. I have also read and reread all of the literature sent to me regarding the Far North Regional Council's (FNDC) and Northland Regional Council's (NRC) evidence reports (attachment 5)
6. I cannot say that I read anything that I haven't read before, again and again *ad infinitum*...
7. With respect to all of the submitters for the councils and without prejudice: I want to say the following two (2) aphorisms:
8. 'He who pays the piper calls the tune' and
9. 'You never bite the hand that feeds you'
10. In other words any submission can be ever so slightly biased as to slant a view one way or another: a word here or a phrase there...
11. In my humble opinion, these multiple submissions that support the application bear that out
12. I will state here that in my opinion the Far North District Council has no intentions of major alterations to the East Coast Sewerage system, unless forced to, otherwise the ratepayers will not accept it because of the costs
13. In 2018 I was seconded to the Parapara Marae Working Party that was formed to negotiate a new structure for disposal of the sewage
14. We were given 14 different methods to choose from...
15. No. 14 was, "*Status Quo*" or 'Do Nothing'
16. This option was on the table but it was repeatedly referred to as, "*Not an Option because we have to do something.*"
17. Now, here we are discussing the resource application app.004007.01.03 Far North District Council – renewal of discharge consents for the East Coast Bays (Taipa) wastewater treatment plant
18. Which is worse than the original because FNDC are requesting to discharge MORE effluent into our river system &
19. They want a 25 year consent period
20. I was the Secretary of Parapara Marae from 1996 until 2008
21. I worked for Te Runanga-a-Iwi O Ngati Kahu as their Environmental Resource Manager from 2006 until Christmas 2011

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22. During that time I also worked for the FNDC and the NRC as a member of Te Roopu Piritahi
23. Te Roopu Piritahi was a Maori Group that advised both councils on Maori issues
24. As such I had many dealing regarding the sewerage at Aurere and I always declared a possible Conflict of Interest
25. While I was Secretary of the Marae I had numerous dealings with both councils regarding the Taipa sewerage system
26. I wrote s submission to the FNDC with regards to the Draft 2005 - 2006 Annual Plan /2004 - 2014 LTCCP
27. I received a reply and a copy is attached:
28. The letter said the Council expected in excess of \$1m would be spent upgrading the sewer system
29. One must ask, “Where did the money go?”
30. The answer would probably be: ‘Down the drain’!
31. I opposed the renewal of the 2008 consent on behalf of Parapara Marae
32. While I was at Te Runanga, we also opposed the 2008 consent on their behalf supporting Parapara’s stance
33. As Secretary of Parapara Marae I invited our local Members of Parliament to come and see what we had to put up with.
34. Sue Bradford, Russel Norman and Jeanette Fitzsimons (Greens) Shane Jones (Labour) and the Hon. John Carter (National) some came, they looked and they went away again
35. Moving on...
36. Hector Busby built his waka at Aurere
37. The first double hulled waka was named Te Aurere
38. He sailed that waka from Aurere to the Cook Island and back...to Aurere
39. And then to Easter Island and back...to Aurere
40. If that does not help to make Aurere a Site of Significance to Maori...nothing will
41. Since that time Hector built more single and multi-hulled waka...at Aurere
42. He built a huge compass on his ground overlooking the Long Beach
43. Each compass point represents an island or group of islands scattered throughout Te Moana Nui-a-Kiwa (The Pacific Ocean)
44. He also started building a Marae so he could welcome dignitaries from Hawaii, Rarotonga, Tonga, Fiji, Rapa Nui
45. This year, 2019, Sir Hekenukumai Busby was knighted at Waitangi, unfortunately he never lived long enough to savour the pleasures of knighthood
46. Surely this IS a Site of Significance to Maori and all New Zealanders?
47. Worthy of protection from any kind of pollution
48. Real or perceived

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ACTS, LAWS AND STATEMENTS REGARDING IWI MAORI AND FRESHWATER...
...THAT COULD BE RELEVANT TO THIS SUBMISSION

- **United Nations:**
Resolution A/RES/64/292. United Nations General Assembly, July 2010 and
- *General Comment No. 15. The right to water. UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, November 2002*
- **Te Tiriti O Waitangi and The Treaty of Waitangi:**
The Treaty of Waitangi Article 2:
<https://www.otago.ac.nz/maori/otago667416.pdf>
- **The Far North District Council's own District Plan**
s1.1 Significant Resource Management Issues:
sub s1.1.1 PARTNERSHIPS WITH TANGATA WHENUA
The Council considers that partnerships with tangata whenua are an important outcome of the planning process in their own right, but it also views these as a means of promoting sustainable management (refer Chapter 2). An important outcome of the Plan will be the protection of Sites of Cultural Significance to Maori (refer Rule 12.5.6.2.2).
- I contend The Parapara River system and Aurere Estuary are sites of great significance to the hapu of Ngati Tara and Ngati Kahu Iwi.
- **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991 (RMA)**
- Part II of the RMA establishes the purpose and principles of the RMA, the purpose being to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.
- Section 6 lists matters of national importance.
- Section 6(e) requires people exercising functions and powers under the Act to recognise and provide for “the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, **water**, sites, wahi tapu, and other taonga.”
- Section 7 lists other matters to be given particular regard when exercising powers and functions under the Act.
- In section 7(a) “Kaitiakitanga” is listed as one of these matters.
- Section 8 requires people exercising functions and powers under the Act to take into account the principles of the Treaty.
- Te Tiriti O Waitangi or (The Treaty of Waitangi) States:
Article II:
- The Resource management Act (1991) and the amendments: Te Ture Whenua Act 1993. The Local Government Act (2002) and amendments: Hazardous Substances & New Organisms Act (HSNO): Historic Places Act etcetera.

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- The Northland Regional Council (NRC) is the kaitiaki of all of the rivers and lakes in their area (Te Tai Tokerau)
- They are responsible for keeping all waterways in their area clean for the purpose of swimming and collecting seafood.
- **This imposes a statutory obligation on local authorities when acting in the capacity as a “consent authority”, to take the Treaty principles into account in their decision making and work under the RMA.**
- Quote: The Treaty of Waitangi provides for the exercise of kawanatanga, while actively protecting tino rangatiratanga of tangata whenua in respect of their natural, physical and spiritual resources. All persons acting under the RMA (including applicants, councils and tangata whenua) must take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (s8). Similar obligations are imposed on councils under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).
- Statutory obligations and case law developed under the RMA have helped to translate how the obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi are to be given effect to in practice. A guide to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, as interpreted by the Waitangi Tribunal and the Courts, has been produced by Te Puni Kokiri.
- The Environment Court has said that consultation, or the need to consult, arises from the principle of partnership in the Treaty of Waitangi; this requires the partners to act reasonably and to make informed decisions.
- <http://www.qualityplanning.org.nz/node/705> (End Quote)
- Matters of national importance carry a substantial weight, but are subordinate to the purpose of sustainable management.
- Similarly matters listed in section 7 are considered as part of the balancing exercise but have less weight than matters of national importance.
- In most cases the provisions in sections 6(e), 7(a) and 8 are considered together as they often overlap.
- To fulfill duties imposed by Part II there has been a strong focus on consultation. Issues associated with consultation are explored in the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE’s) Kaitiakitanga and Local Government report.
- There are a number of other sections of the RMA that mention kaupapa Maori. These sections are in the main relevant to plan and policy considerations, Iwi Management Plans and wahi tapu. Section 33 is also important as it allows authorities to transfer functions to iwi authorities, although to date no such transfer has occurred.
https://www.pce.parliament.nz/media/pdfs/treaty_initiative.pdf
- I would like to draw attention to a Labour (Party) website:
<https://www.labour.org.nz/water>

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The opening paragraph states everything this Tribunal needs to know:

Clean rivers for future generations

Our water is New Zealand's most important natural treasure.

- *Clean water is the birth-right of all of us, and vital to our continued prosperity. Our rivers and lakes are a taonga of huge significance to Māori, a favourite place of recreation for New Zealanders. Water underpins our agriculture. Our fresh water resource needs to be protected and restored, and that can only happen if all water users and the Government work together. The Government will assist in this work by employing young people who are stuck on the dole and getting them working on improving the health of waterways.*

Everyone owns our water, but some have interests in it that others don't. Large commercial users who profit from our water should pay a fair and affordable royalty – for example, water bottling companies. This revenue can help councils restore our waterways for future generations.

I will stop there because there is nothing I can write or say that hasn't already been written or said that will alter the fact that:

Those people who want the sewerage as is will translate all of the above as a useful nuisance...

Whilst those who oppose the sewerage are frustrated that those in power who could do something useful with all of the current rules and regulations appear to sit on the fence and do nothing except wring their hands and shed crocodile tears once every three years.

Addendum 2 RESOURCE APPLICATION APP.004007.01.03 FAR NORTH DISTRICT
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A SITE of SIGNIFICANCE: AURERE

- KO AU TE AWA...KO TE AWA AU
- I AM THE RIVER...THE RIVER IS ME
- Living beside any river in New Zealand in times of old was a way of life in itself
- Living beside the Parapara River and its tributaries was no different
- Potable drinking water uncontaminated by foreign substances; always on hand
- Navigation to and from the ocean
- Washing and ablutions
- Food ...eels, freshwater indigenous fish: īnanga and kokopu plus saltwater fish
- Pleasure, swimming and waka racing
- Along long stretches of the river people fished
- At Aurere there was, and still is, an abundance of shellfish and wet fish; renowned throughout Aotearoa for its bounties of kai moana
- Indeed, Aurere is so important to Ngati Tara there is a Whakatauki written on the tahuhu (backbone) of the marae
- *Ahakoā he iti koe i nga pipi o Aurere*
- *He wai u tangata tena*
- *Ta James Henare was the kai tuhi*
- *Translating to:*
Although small, Oh Pipi of Aurere, you are as sweet as mothers' milk.
- Although it should be remembered that the original name of Aurere was Aureretanga.
- I quote from Florence Keene's book *Tai Tokerau* [page 25]: (Florence Keene was originally a Matthews' from Aurere)
- *'Aurere is situated at the mouth of the Awapoko River, a few miles north of Taipa. It was a great tragedy that gave this beautiful place its name, and this was related by an old kaumatua, Ngakuku. He began the story by saying, "Ko te tini o Toi, ko te mano o Toi, i mate i te rautahio atua." – Many thousands of Toi's people perished under a sweeping thrust of the gods. This was a terrible epidemic that carried off so many that there weren't enough able-bodied men left to bury the dead. For many days and nights all that could be heard were the heart-broken wailings of the dying and those who had escaped death. So, from this tragic happening, this picturesque spot was given the name Te Aureretanga' which means the universal groaning and wailings for the dead. Later Te Aureretanga was shortened to Aurere.'*
- Parts of Aurere are still tapu to the local people because of where, those that died here during that epidemic, were buried...
- Aurere is of such a significance to Ngati Tara and Ngati Kahu that the late Sir Hekenukumai Busby built and named his first ocean-going waka Te Aurere



Far North
District Council

28-Jun-2005

Mr Victor Claud Hollaway
Parapara Marae
82 Simon Ulrich Rd
Tokerau Beach, R D 3
KAITAIA 0500

235

Private Bag 752, Memorial Ave

KAIKOHE 0400, New Zealand

Freephone: 0800 920 029

Phone: (09) 405 2750

Fax: (09) 401 2137

Email: ask.us@fndc.govt.nz

Website: www.fndc.govt.nz

Te Kaunihera o Tai Tokerau Ki Te Raki

Dear Mr Hollaway

Re: Submission to Draft 2005-2006 Annual Plan/2004-14 LTCCP

Thank you for your submission on the Draft 2005-2006 AP and amended 2004/2014 Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

The process leading to the adoption of the final LTCCP was extensive. After six public meetings, Council received 2384 submissions from 812 submitters. 277 presentations were received over five days of hearings, followed by three days of deliberations.

This letter provides you with a record of your summarised submission and the outcome of Council's deliberations on the issues you specifically raised.

Your submission to AP 05-06/LTCCP 04-14 regarding Water & Waste summarised as follows:

The people of Parapara Marae object to the water residue from the Mangonui/Taipa/East Coast sewerage system flowing into the Parapara River system, thereby contaminating the kai moana. He would Council to return the liquid to the land

was debated and Council advise the outcome is as follows:

Work is progressing on the implementation of upgrades to the east coast sewerage system. The LTCCP indicates a total expenditure in excess of \$1M on the system in 2005/6 and 2006/7. The work will include upgrades to reduce the risk of overflows/spills off sewage into the River system.

Your submission to AP 05-06/LTCCP 04-14 regarding Transport Networks summarised as follows:

FNDC has sprayed one side of State Highway 10 (between Black Quarry & Lake Ohia) for gorse and the other side for pampas. All of the other vegetation in the area has died off, either through residual spray or because of lack of rain and it looks a mess. It is likely that next heavy rainfall will probably bring the banks down onto the road, through lack of ground cover. Mr Hollaway requests council find a better way to control vegetation on the banks of highways.

was debated and Council advise the outcome is as follows:

This is State Highway. Submission to be referred to Transit.



WATER RESIDUE FROM A SETTLING POND (PARAPARA)
STARTING ITS FLOW TOWARDS TE MOHO STREAM
& THEN TO PARAPARA RIVER FLOWING INTO TORARAU AT AUREE ESTUARY

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Addendum 5: East Coast, Mangonui to Taipa Sewerage System¹

I would now like to refer to the Northland Regional Council's Notified Staff Report:

- Page 6: Item 2.7. This allows the applicant to continue to operate the WWTP under the 'expired' consent until a determination has been made in the renewal application...leading to:
Page 17, 5.48. It states, 'With the advent of putting #3 aerobic pond in series this should be capable of reaching the flow rate of 1775 m³ / day.
Is that the current outflow or the new requested outflow?
Because, the current rate of outflow is only supposed to be 1005 m³ / day,
- Page 16. Item 5.47. The Treatment System. It states: Treated wastewater is then pumped over the hill to the west (out of the Taipa River Catchment) into a system of four constructed wetlands in the Awapoko River Catchment. Treated wastewater is then discharged to a farm drain...
- *My question is, 'How is the water treated in these four ponds as there is nothing there but reeds and sunlight?'*
- According to the report: Page 18.5.2.53 & 54. (53) The current treatment system does not have any dedicated treatment device solely for pathogen removal (for example artificial UV light or ozone or chlorine dosing). That said, some tertiary treatment happens within the facultative ponds, maturation ponds and wetlands.
(54) I understand that the removal of faecal pathogens in the ponds and wetlands is 'moderate to good (due to the action of UV sunlight and [microbial] predation)
- *Is this really good enough for a 21st Century sewerage plant that is pumping effluent into a river where people fish and collect shellfish for human consumption?*
- Page 19.5.5. 58. It is important to note that the maximum daily dry weather volume (1005 m³ / day) was only exceeded on 15 out of 999 days, and that the 95th percentile of the dry weather flows is 803 m³ / day.
- *ONLY 15 days out of 999! I consider 1 day out of 999 to be one too many in this day and age. I can't help being cynical and wondering how accurate these figures are?*
- *I would also like to comment, not argue or condemn, that... 'The 15 times out of 999 days was only the recorded times the system failed...how many more times did the system fail without being discovered and recorded?*
- *When we were negotiating with the FNDC they stated that illegal connections of storm-water pipes to the sewerage system was causing major problems when there was heavy rain (which is happening more often.)
Again, I find this statement amazing in the 21st Century.*
- *I'm sure council's had men going around checking connections once upon a time?*
- *Probably cost cutting –*
- *It is patently obvious the ammonia being allowed to enter the river system is far greater than the FNDC would have us believe...the figures given on pages 26 to 33 are mainly*

Addendum 5: East Coast, Mangonui to Taipa Sewerage System2

guesses: once again one has to ponder the accuracy of the figures. Plus the times ammonia goes into the river system without being detected and / or reported.

- *The only person near enough to be concerned and who would report it being Mr. Morris.*
- *I note quite a bit of blame-shifting on Mr. Morris, his cows and his farm*
- *I am going to stop this line of discussions right here.*
- *I could go on and on quoting all of the various Acts of Parliament; the Treaty of Waitangi and Te Tiriti of Waitangi; Charters of the United Nations and other World Organisations*
- *But why bother? I don't think there is anything new I could write or say that hasn't already been written or said or eluded to.*
- *Everyone who has submitted anything at this Hearing and all of the previous meetings and hearings have read the same Acts, reports and submissions (for and against) written in English with a smattering of Te Reo Maori*
- *We all read the same language...*
- *...but we all arrive at different conclusions*