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**HILDA HALKYARD- HARAWIRA 16 MAY 2023**



*He Whānau Ora, He Hapū Ora, He Iwi Ora  
He Oranga Taiao, He Taiao Oranga  
Tihei Te Oranga*

1. My name is Hilda Harawira-Halkyard. I am of Ngāti Haua ki te Rarawa, Ngāti Whātua, Te Aupouri and Te Moana Nui a Kiwa. I am a grandmother (seven children, 10 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren), I am a waka ama paddler and a Kura Kaupapa Māori educationalist.
2. My husband Hone Pani Tamati Waka Nene Harawira and I live in Waimanoni, Awanui in the region of Ngai Takoto.
3. I am a former member of Ngā Tamatoa, the Waitangi Action Committee, He Taua, Pacific Peoples Anti Nuclear Action Committee (PPANAC), Nuclear Free & Independent Pacific (NFIP), Māori People's Liberation Movement of Aotearoa (MPLMoA) and Te Kawariki. In 1996, I traveled with many young activists from around the world to Papeete to protest the last nuclear test on Fangataufa atoll. I have a Masters degree with first class honors in Māori Education from Auckland University.
4. In 2021 I was a member of the Human Rights Commission working group that framed a National Action Plan Against Racism for the Justice Department. I have continuously supported causes that pertain to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and human rights.
5. I am a former principal of Te Rangi Aniwaniwa. Since 2014 I have had the Convenor role of Te Kōtiū, a collective of Tumuaiki of kura kaupapa Māori in Te Tai Tokerau. I am a delegate on the executive of Te Rūnanga Nui for Te Tai Tokerau and also a newly elected Māori Councillor of the Far North District Council.

6. I am have provided evidence on the following Waitangi Tribunal claims:
- (a) Wai 2220 Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rangi Aniwaniwa (2008);
  - (b) Wai 2796 regarding the foreshore and seabed legislation on behalf of the hapu of Ngāti Haua ki Te Rarawa (heard in 2020);
  - (c) Wai 2872 Mana Wahine (heard in 2021) – regarding the inequity of kura kaupapa Māori in Tai Tokerau.
  - (d) Wai 1718, Urgent Inquiry regarding the inequity of Kura Kaupapa Māori in the Education System.

**He mihi** tēnei ki taku Māmā a Frances Halkyard, a Kane Te Tai , te hoia i mate i Ukraine, a Whaea Ngaire Makiha te makau a Papa Rereata, a Karmin Ahorangi Petera i aituangia i Whangarei , a Mere Taylor Tuiloma he mareikura manu tioriori rongonui nō Motukiore, a Wiremu Puriri, he roia manaaki ngā whanaunga i roto i ngā kōti o Whangarei , me ēra atu kua hinga e whawhai ana mō ēnei kaupapa.

The French Government still maintains today that the 181 nuclear tests conducted on Moruroa and Fangataufa atolls were “safe”. The final explosion was 600 times stronger than the Hiroshima bomb at the end of world war 2. The health of the locals and nearby islanders has been profoundly affected - with many suffering radiation poisoning, cancers and intergenerational birth defects. There are many similarities between the French testing in the Pacific and sewage dumping in the Hokianga and other harbours. All the well paid reports submitted : remind me of the French sponsored reports which proclaimed the nuclear testing posed no threats to the wellbeing of the people and the moana of Tahiti, Maohi Nui.

**Māori are 53%** of the FNDC population. Our area has the highest poverty index. 17% of all land in the District is Māori freehold land blocks. 54% of Māori land is located in the Kaikohe-Hokianga Ward , 28% in the Bay of Islands /Whangaroa Ward and approximately 18% in the Te Hiku Ward. “The population of Hokianga is between 6,000 - 7000 of whom 60% are of Māori descent, Te Rarawa hapu in the north, Ngāpuhi hapu in the south- eleven rivers feed the Hokianga.” Tai Tokerau census worker May 14,2023. 165,201 people affiliated to Ngāpuhi in the 2018 census.

In this year’s regional kapa haka competition, **Tōkihi ki Mua** Tai Tokerau rangatahi performed provocative haka and waiata against the dumping of sewage into the Hokianga Harbour and the continued degradation of the taiao. Kaikohe Kura Kaupapa called on the Kahikā (Mayor) , the Kowhai (Deputy Mayor) and the

Māori ward councilors to be their mouthpiece to stop these atrocities. We already are viewed as polluters of the Taiao.

**FNDC has inherited / maintained 16 Council wastewater schemes & 15**

**treatment plants** that dump sewage into the harbours of Hokianga, Kārikirikura, Te Oneroa a Tohe, Pārengarenga , Houhora, Rangaunu, Tokerau, Mangonui, Whangaroa, Kororareka, Waikare and Peowhairangi.

**As one of 4 Māori Ward Councillors** I am unable to support the practice of dumping tutae/ tiko into our streams, rivers and harbours - it is a cultural violation and health disease risk and must cease immediately. In 2014 , the Waitangi Tribunal acknowledged that Ngāpuhi Nui tonu never ceded tino rangatiratanga at the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. In 2019, the Tribunal reaffirmed hapu rangatiratanga.

**I have applied a Kaitiakitanga matrix to measure if our current local and regional council have met minimum hapu tino rangatiratanga standards of Tiriti o Waitangi :**

**FNDC, taku Kaunihera has in the past**

1. **dumped sewage** in areas of high Māori populations( estimate of 50,000 tons per annum).
2. **ignored Hapu and Iwi** objections over 30 years, Waitangi Tribunal and te Mauri o Te Wai submissions and a working relationship with local hapu . These are recorded cultural impact assessments pertaining to Hokianga Moana.
3. **degraded the moana**, wāhi tapu, kaimoana beds and significant cultural sites,
4. **hidden the impact** of long term sewage disposal on the health of the moana , the taiao and the people,
5. **used technical language reports** to diminish the real stories and results observed and felt by locals; eg hydrodynamics,
6. **mortgaged ratepayers** to long term payments for imperfect sewage disposal methods that do not meet coastal regulations and human health standards;
7. **not embraced taiao** friendly options- ie land based disposal using electrocoagulation technology and other yet to be invented possibilities;
8. **deemed land disposal** schemes economically not viable without providing the cost analysis and made sewage disposal upgrades a low priority minimising the risk to regional infrastructure,

9. **suggested** there are 3 possible options to current waste water dumping:
  - a) do nothing and or apply to extend a resource consent
  - b) spot maintenance or
  - c) upgrade a wastewater plant .
10. **hosting** the hearings as a seen to be done process.

**On a scale of 1-10** in the Kaitiakitanga Matrix, with 1 registering least Tiriti friendly and 10 as a mutual tino rangatiratanga decision making working party, I score the current process **3/10**.

I therefore call on the resource consent to be denied as it falls below par on meeting basic Tiriti o Waitangi standards and policy 2 of the Coastal Policy Statement.

**Under the Local Government Act**, both FNDC and NRC have been negligent in :

- i) **its failure to listen** - has not met engagement and consultation process with local hapu and Iwi,
- ii) **its failure to form relationship agreements** and representation on how Councils and hapu/Iwi work together.
- iii **its failure to use local mechanisms** to withdraw from practices abhorred by the communities.

#### **He Rongoa / Solutions : Moana Restoration, Remediation and Resilience.**

- 1) Moana Restoration, Remediation and Resilience is a direction we must take with extra pressures of climate change
- 2) Both FNDC and NRC must commit funds and agreed staffing for these hapu iwi consultation, engagement and mutual decision making processes to happen in a timely manner.
- 3) The Kaikohe hapu model is a hapu rangatiratanga friendly template that should be used across the region . The working plan agreement is based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Rangatiratanga, Tohungatanga, Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga, Ukaipō, Kotahitanga.
- 4) The technical information provided for Opononi, Omapere & Kohukohu resource consent is poor , the report writer expressed not wanting to work

with tangata whenua and framed her position around lack of economic viability, without providing full options for decision making. There does not seem to be uniformity of purpose amongst staff.

- 5) Recommend we take our lead from the Kaikohe and Taipā hapu and invest in land disposal and stop dumping tiko into all harbours.
- 6) As our population and infrastructure numbers grow, there will always be more impact on sewage disposal facilities and a need to reevaluate every 5 years- to check the working system and whether it is meeting the needs.

**How do we pay for it?** Rates, infrastructure payments from developers and housing partners, safe waters & climate resilience funding . Councillors, Runanga a Iwi and hapu need to be part of finding funding subsidies and partners to reduce rates.

**Our role as citizens-** is to minimise all community waste through safe practice and education. We have endured the recent outbreak of Covid 19 and we will always be vulnerable to strains of diseases in the future like typhoid.

**Apologies to our Hapu and our Moana.**