TENA KOTOU TENA KOTOU TENA KOTOU KATOA

My name is Ron Liddicoat. My submission was hurried and not well considered and I feel very humble to speak before so many eloquent previous speakers.

I want to acknowledge the previous speakers and their qualifications and knowledge. My background is in health system and I have a business teaching resuscitation/ First Aid. I have also taught bee keeping for Lincoln university.

I have a lifestyle block at Sweetwater I bought in 1981 and have raised 5 children here.

I was privilaged to be born and raised in Te Hiku O Te Iku. My Father managed the dairy company in Awanui and I grew up there alongside local Iwi. My 5 siblings married tangata whenua and I have whanau connections with Ngati Kuri, Te Aupouri, Ngai Taukoto,. Ngati Kahu, Te Rarawa and Ngapuhi.

My whenua is a mix of sub tropical fruit trees and natives, vegetables and plants for multiple use. I grow avocados that I don't spray or irrigate and get bucket loads of fruit every year that I can feed to my grandchildren.

In 1984 I put down a bore on the back of a local Elders skill and knowledge. He knew exactly what level we were going through and what would come up as we drilled. Our technique was a galvanised pipe with polyurethane hose attached pumping water as the lead pressure.

The depth was 40 meters and the bore was cased and screened. It draws artesian water at 35 meters. I'm sure it doesn't meet whatever criteria is mentioned as a ??? good/ compliant bore. This bore provided water for my family and garden for 35 yrs until 2018 when it dropped so much I could not utilise it. I rang the regional council who told me I needed to put down a deeper bore./ Unfortunately I didn't have a spare 15 thousand dollars.

This scenario could easily be played out with many people currently reliant on bore water.

Saline intrusion is occurring naturally? Maybe we shouldn't worry about it then? I had heard that once an aquifer has profuse salinity its unknown when of even if it will recover. I don't know and I don't think the applicants do either.

My submission was that I objected to so much water being sought when the homework / hard science has not been done. The financial gain of a few taking priority over tangata whenua and community right to clean water.

Yesterday questions were asked about why applicants differ so much in water requirements for the same use and were told that different methods are used etc. It stands to reason that if you have bare ground sprayed free of plant life you will need to water a lot more than if you have built up a mulch which holds moisture. Previous applicants have at least spoken of a commitment to water conservation. Surely there should be a best practice model? Minimum requirements for water conservation?

Questions have been asked about IWI consultation. I contend that corresponding with a few people in the development arm of an iwi does not mean you have consulted iwi. Iwi are here and they are extremely concerned. They are the faces around us looking worried that yet again they will end up marginalised and disenfranchised , their concerns ignored as monoculture replaces biodiversity.

If there is one reliability in the submissions and statements it is the unreliability. The science seemed to me to be pseudo science. How reliable was the modelling? Do we really know the depth and

breadth of the aquifer. How much water is there? How its recharged/ refilled? Where exactly? How exactly? What is the base of the aquifer consist of? Does it have multiple facets and variations horizontally / vertically? How many Aquifer levels are there? Two? Six? Do they interface? How?

There are so many unknowns in this application. Along with many others I do not trust the applicants to limit their water take to their consents.

The checks and balances to monitor draw are unreliable and of poor quality. I have been told that applicants are able to disconnect monitoring meters and pump away- I hope that's not true. I fully support the ideas that more research is needed along with a comprehensive system of biological indicators as well as other proposed triggers need implementing to provide a comprehensive safeguard. Manuka for example, how important is it financially now and when does it die for want of water? Why cant we monitor individual existing bores as a base line across the whenua as well as monitoring bores? Why can't we become concerned when our bores dry up and incorporate that information into an alert system.

My submission asked that any consents be provisional and I re emphasise that. A robust monitoring regime is essential but not proposed.

So Many questions and so few answers. So much money at stake.

This incredible amazing life giving water is a true taonga. It is not infinite. It is too precious to gamble.

Commissioners I do not envy the weight of responsibility you currently bear. I pray you will have wisdom.

Thank You

Tena kotou tena kotou tena tatou katoa.