

TAKAHIWAI MAORI COMMITTEE. Est 10.11.1977

Toi Takahiwai—Community Arts, Crafts, Gardens & Conservation Hub

Not-for-profit association

Westpac Bank, Ruakaka

Triennial Election Meeting. Sunday 1 October 2023

(Dr) Mere Kepa, Chair, Patrick Hilton, Treasurer, Davina Duke, Secretary, Corinthia Kepa, Diane Kepa, Hiria Rata, Shilane Shirkey, & Tauwira Hita.

- Mere Kepa—Chair & Designer-Developer-Writer, Conservation Strategist.
- Davina Duke—Secretary & Senior Arts Associate .
- Patrick Hilton—Treasurer, Conservation Strategist, & Cultural Consultant.
- Shilane Shirkey—Financial Projects Manager & Budget Consultant.
- Corinthia Kepa—Conservation Strategist.
- Diane Kepa & Tauwira Hita—Maori Wardens
- Lynda Harris—Senior Arts Associate & Conservation Strategist.

AREA—Te Tai Tokerau East, New Zealand Maori Council.

The New Zealand Maori Council (NZMC) is a statutory organisation, constituted through the Maori Community Development Act 1962. As a national body, the Council is mandated to represent Maori throughout Aotearoa New Zealand to work for the wellbeing of Maori through health, education, employment, housing as set out in section 18 of the Maori Community Development Act 1962.

COURT HEARING—... the Maori Affairs Act 1953 setting apart this land containing 1.8767 hectares known as Sections 1 and 2 Block 11 Ruakaka Survey District as a Maori Reservation for the purpose of a recreation and sports ground **in association with** the Takahiwai marae for the common use and benefit of the Maori community of Takahiwai.

NZ GAZETTE—12 December 1974-Denis Blundell Governor General
Declaring land vested in the Auckland Education Board as a site for a school to be vested in Her Majesty the Queen (Crown land).

WHANGAREI COUNTY—Sections 1 and 2 Block 11-Ruakaka Survey District—Given under the hand of his Excellency the Governor General and issued under the Seal of NZ this 30th day of November 1974—Matiu Rata Minister of Lands.

ORIGINAL TRUSTEES—10. 11.1977 Sections 1 and 2 Block 11 Ruakaka Survey District Committee
Toko Pitman, Grant Pirihi, Henare Pirihi, Dick Paki, Percy Johnston Honetana, Barney Scott, Wi Teira Pirihi, Toti Del Epiha, Dawson Rata, Flora Harding and Ngawati Maki.

LAND BLOCK: TAKAHIWAI 9A Responsible Trustees (29/9.2015):

Ani Pitman, Anthony Lowe, Bert Mackie (deceased), Christine Payne, Donna Flower, Grant Harding (Te Kepa Rata Kukupa have requested Grant's replacement by Mark Strang, then Blair Strang, and Craig Harding), Hapeta Rata (deceased), Jacky Whippy, John Paki, Juanita Epiha, Kare Rata, Luana Pirihi, Mervyn Clyde, Michael Abel, Shane Wassell, Russell Pirihi, Sarah Dawson (deceased) & Teira Pirihi.

STATUTORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The New Zealand Maori Council (NZMC) is a statutory organisation, constituted through the Maori Community Development Act 1962. As a national body, the Council is mandated to represent Maori throughout Aotearoa New Zealand to work for the social and economic advancement and wellbeing of Maori through health, education, employment, housing as set out in section 18 of the Maori Community Development Act 1962.

Before Independent Hearings Commissioners appointed by the Northland Regional Council

under: the Resource Management Act 1991

in the matter of: an application by Meridian Energy Limited for resource consents for earthworks, associated stormwater diversion and discharges and vegetation clearance for the construction of a solar farm at Ruakaka, Northland (APP.045356.01.01)

Closing remarks

Tena tatou katoa,

The right to participate in decision making is a fundamental human right. Participation tends to foster trust and confidence in the Crown, their agencies and agents. Participating gives authenticity and legitimacy to decisions. Nonetheless, Takahiwai Maori Committee is aware that whanau and hapu, at least, in communities around the confiscated land, Te Poupouwhenua, will continue being pulled in all sorts of directions by the industrialists and developers applying for resource consents, when our fundamental human right to participate in decision making is misread, misunderstood, misapprehended, miscomprehended or that an individual or individual organisation has simply 'got the wrong end of the stick'.

Takahiwai Maori Committee endorses clear debate that brings evidence and scrutiny to issues, to increase public understanding, all in support of an inclusive narrative of Te Poupouwhenua. There are few harsher indictments against the Resource Management Act than the dejection Takahiwai Maori Committee feels at the arrival of bulldozers for our grief is fuelled more by a distaste for how the solar farm is being constructed politically rather than by any hatred of development or material progress.

Take for consideration, the Act's light regard for the land agent, John Grant Johnson's declaration that the *nature of the native claims in the district were 'clearly defined', with Te Parawhau, the 'original tribe of Whangarei, occupying and claiming the southern bank, ... controlled by Tirarau, the chief of the Wairoa River in Kaipara.* Consider, too, Hardstone's light suggestion that the *cultural effects arising from the proposal are considered to be minor subject to implementation of the recommendations made in the consultation documents.*

When bands of workers arrived to sketch out the confiscated land, as they scraped and will excavate their way through Indigenous waters, Indigenous flora and fauna habitats, and hammer measuring ropes into the soil, a sense of impending forfeiture is felt again. Although there were no doubt some old and noble trees standing on what will become the solar farm, though there is some Indigenous wildlife habitats, these will succumb to the saw and the shovel with only passing sorrow from their previous denizens, for what is planned in their place is expected to provide more than adequate compensation for all life.

While Takahiwai Maori Committee's opposition to the application for resource consents to the Councils by Meridian Energy Ltd is neither contracted nor purged by all of the technical architecture and archaeology, there will be a fitting alternative to the old and noble trees, an

expansive Mara Rongoa healing garden confirming the narrative of the Te Parawhau Hapu. There will be beauty in the green space of the Mara Rongoa at Te Poupouwhenua. There will be an air of serenity over the acres of black and white streets that will restructure the ancestral land. There will be a scientific contribution to decarbonisation and a socio-cultural-political relief to the impoverishment of being landless, houseless, and jobless, all in the name of development or material progress by Meridian Energy Ltd, clear debate that brings evidence and scrutiny to issues, and increased public understanding of the narrative of forfeiture of the Te Poupouwhenua and the Te Parawhau Hapu.

No reira, ka mihinui.

(Dr) T. Mere. A. Kepa, Chair.



Takahiwai Maori Committee. Est.1977.

Ahikaroa, Te Parawhau Hapu and Te Patuharakeke o Te Parawhau Hapu.

5 August 2024.