

Ngai Tūpoto Marae Resource Consent hearing korero, Rawene, 18/05/23

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Introduction

- Pepeha, mihi to our Hokianga tupuna who've been with us all week, & whanau who couldn't be here
- We tautoko every other kaikorero submission that have said no to the consent applications - Hokianga a tight rohe, kotahitanga around the take
- Marae on shore, serves hapū rohe o Ngai Tūpoto, hapū boundary with Ihutai near Kohukohu
- Our whakapapa connects us to ngā Atua, our tupuna and the taiao - all are interconnected & all have a mauri
- 11,000 ha (30 km) of harbour provides cultural, social, environment & economic wellbeing for 30+ marae & numerous hapū associated with the harbour – in return we share kaitiakitanga responsibility for it – it's not a choice, it's who we are

We all know the impact of waste-water discharge on our kai species, eoc-system, indigenous flora and fauna recreation, livelihoods - we must get the tiko out of our wahapū

Applicant lack of understanding

- Our te ao Maori values don't align with the applicants – disrespectful of tangata whenua, te Tiriti
- It is all one water – stop looking at issues in isolation – disregard for interconnectedness
- You've heard over & over again the reasons for not accepting any human discharge to water (treated or not) – don't do it in our homes, papakainga or marae - land based system 20 years ago!
- The current system is acknowledged in the applicants' evidence as having 'a significant adverse effect on tangata whenua and the mauri of the wahapū', but then ignored when making decisions for Waste Water
- Reference is made throughout RMA documents about our culture as being a "matter of national importance" – just lip service!
- Te Rarawa even has a Statutory Acknowledgement as part of our 2015 Treaty settlement that spells out the significance of the wahapū o Hokianga. Paul will pick upon this

Our expectations & conditions

- Marae/hapū/iwi/community groups must be part of decision-making – the basis for moving forward - it's not optional!
- Catchment-wide wahapū o Hokianga plan that includes other contributing factors (deforestation, forestry, farm practices, sedimentation)
- Establish a working group to develop & implement a staged plan to discharge to land – electro-coagulation system for example known to be environmentally, economically & practically viable - used all around the world, why so afraid??
- Factor Climate Change into plans – need to be prepared; random weather events, increased storm water infiltration
- Explore added value/opportunities of land-based systems for the community – compost, worm farms, irrigation, septage, local management, employment
- Meaningful harbour-wide monitoring that includes cultural indicators – plenty of tried & true models - not just about fitting compliance requirements
- Stop the focus on cost & unsuitability of our land - be creative, find ways

Tired of repeating our simple bottom line – discharge to land is the only acceptable solution – any other remedy, mitigation or improvement is just 'sticking plaster'

Ngai Tūpoto Marae objects to the consent applications - we have & always will exercise our rangatiratanga & assert our mana whenua over these matters.