

File 4007 ASLU

17 June,2019

I F Burke

84 Inland Road,

Lake Ohia,RD3,

Kaitaia 0483

In the matter of Resouce Consent Application APP 004007.01.03.

To the Independant Hearing Commissioners,Mr Antoine Coffin & Dr Rob Lieffering;

Tena korua,

I had intended being present to present my further comments, relating to my earlier submission of 05 August,2010,but can not now be present as I will be out of the country from june 25, already having delayed a trip to see family,after wrongly assuming the hearing was for the 24th only.

No reira,

Firstly, I wish to retract my unsubstantiated statement re the mayor of that period, & his associates having input into the design & construction of the TWTP.It seems information I was given at that time was incorrect.Also comments re funding aerial mineral survey have no relevance these days. Secondly, I was not neutral,but against the application in 2010. It seems I had neglected to tick a box regarding the general nature of my submission. I was however very much in favour of allowing the FNDC adequate time to explore land disposal & other wastewater treatment options.

My concerns of seepage from the TWTP into the Ryder's Creek catchment in 2010,where I saw what looked like contaminated & stagnant water have been eased.Recently I visited the site & was pleased to a grassed area & reed marshes further towards the mangroves on the river side of the plant. There may be some possibility of seepage to the recently cleared drain though,that runs around the rear perimeter of the treatment ponds,from the Kerifresh orchard & into the mangroves in the Ryder's creek area.

Although I do not whakapapa to Ngati Kahu,I do share their abhorance regarding human effluent,be it treated or otherwise, being discharged into any waterways.

I am now appalled that a time lapse of almost a decade has passed by & the FNDC has

not really improved the situation at all. They seem to have little problem spending ratepayers funds on experts to support their application, all who have stated that with treatment improvements, the ammonia discharge levels can be mitigated. This begs the question then; Why did they not make such improvements over the past 9 years?

I recall that Andreas Kurmann, a local environmental scientist, was funded by the FNDC, in 2010 to set up an algae extraction prototype which I understand was to remove nutrients from the treated wastewater, which he said was very successful, however the council would not fund the "next step" which was to build a system to take larger volumes. He, as mentioned in the statement of evidence of Mr Barry Sommers, is a firm supporter of electrocoagulation & there is substantial information regards this process available online, & I suggest it is high time the FNDC became innovative & evaluated this treatment option.

I have little expertise in bio-remediation systems, but I have wondered ever since my first visit to the wetlands on the Parapara site in 2010, why such a filtering field of flaxes & suitable plantings was not created to reduce the contaminants & nutrients of the wastewater, (hazardous wastewater the sign states), between where it discharges into the open drain & where it enters the unnamed tributary of the Parapara. Surely something of this nature would have greatly reduced the pollution & if had been established way back then in 2010 or even earlier, it could have been a flourishing ecosystem by now.

Although I am very much in favour of a disposal to land system, I, along with other local property owners, (11 in total), were far from impressed upon receipt of letters dated the 18th April, 2018, informing us, that our properties were one part of 4 potentially suitable sites for the treated wastewater to land. After meeting with other owners, & reading the accompanying AECOM glossy, Issues & Options brochures, we found that our properties were no longer recommended for further investigation. I then called the FNDC contact person, & asked why we were sent this letter in the first place & was told, they thought it better to be informed rather than find out on the grapevine later. Also when I asked if anyone had actually visited this area, (Lake Ohia), & seen that much of it was low lying, reclaimed flax swamp, & subject to flooding in parts, I was told that it had only been a desktop exercise. It is also an area that has many farm drains that already cause substantial pollution of the Aurere Stream,

How the council ever imagined they would be able to buy out 11 owners, all with long developed properties, established homes & other buildings, why the area was ever considered at all & why they simply did not state in the letter, that Option One was no longer under investigation, is beyond my comprehension.

Further, on August 22, myself & neighbors received letters, as being some of those owners whose properties were identified as land discharge sites, inviting us to attend a

presentation at Kaikohe on the following day, August 24. I note that the letter was dated the 13th of August, but why we didn't receive this invitation earlier is unexplained. We are all busy people, mostly working & how we were expected to down tools & make our way to Kaikohe at a days notice suggests perhaps that we were neither really welcome.

To say that the FNDC has not endeared itself or instilled confidence in the ratepayers of this area, is an understatement & their actions or non-actions in regard to other sewerage treatment plants in the region, plus their wastage of \$3 to \$4 million on the Sweetwater bore project, on a site that they can't access, to future proof Kaitaia's water supply suggests some disfunction.

I'm presuming that the applicant will be successful in renewing this consent regardless of the opposition, so I should hope that any requirements & improvements to the treatment process must have very strict timelines & be stringently enforced. Unfortunately any monetary penalties would only impact on us ratepayers.

Na, Ian Francis Burke, RD3 Kaitaia

