

10 JULY 2024

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF TE RUUNANGA O NGAATI MAHUTA KI TE HAUAURU

INTRODUCTION

1. Thank you for the opportunity to address you in relation to tranche 1 hearing topics on the Proposed Waitomo District Plan (the Plan).
2. My full name is Melaina Atawhai Huaki. The original submission prepared on behalf of Te Ruunanga o Ngaati Mahuta ki te hauauru Trust (TRNMTH) was prepared by Nevada Te Rangiawatea Alanis Huaki-Foote. We are mokopuna of the tuupuna Hemopēti Tuaupiki nee Pouaka who is the original owner of the Te Mania Block in Tahaaroa.
3. I, Melaina, have a Masters degree in Indigenous Knowledge and Nevada has a Bachelor of Environmental Planning with approximately 7 years postgraduate planning experience at territorial authorities and central government, and as a planning consultant within the private sector.
4. While we have the qualifications and experience to present expert planning evidence and indigenous knowledge, we are not appearing here today in the capacity of expert witnesses. Our role here today is to provide a statement on behalf of TRNMTH as Mana whenua of Tahaaroa and the surrounding district endorsed and mandated by our three marae, Maketuu, Te Kooraha and Aaruka.
5. TRNMTH has sought relief in four (4) topics regarding the tranche 1 hearing. They are:
 - a. Earthworks
 - b. Hapori whānui (Provisions for community wellbeing, safety and amenity)
 - c. Te Maika Precinct, and
 - d. Māori purpose zone.
6. I do not intend to repeat our full submission however I instead intend to include:
 - a. a brief overview of TRNMTH and the marae in which it represents
 - b. comment on those parts of the section 42A reports that are relevant to our submission, this is limited as this is relevant to our submission and the tranche 1 hearing topics, and
 - c. our request to the Hearing Panel.

TE RUUNANGA O NGAATI MAHUTA KI TE HAUAURU

7. TRNMTH represents a hapuu within Waikato iwi. As kaitiaki of Te Ahurei, where Tainui waka lays, our history stretches back centuries. TRNMTH has a unique and independent identity while honouring the connection to inland Waikato origins.
8. TRNMTH was incorporated as a Society under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957, on 31 May 2013. The Trust's primary purpose has been to preserve and support the ancestral lands and coastlines of Ngaati Mahuta ki te hauauru, as well as to administer their interests, affairs, and ancestral assets. The Trust aims to benefit all descendants of the hapuu, now and in the future.
9. Our areas of interest stretch from Maketuu Marae situated at the southern end of Kaawhia Harbour, out to Te Waitere, down to Marokopa and back up along the west coast. Te Kooraha Marae is situated north-east of the Tahaaroa township beneath Oorangiwahao Maunga. Aaruka Marae is situated in the township of Tahaaroa beneath Mangatangi Maunga.



Figure 1: Indication of the extent of areas of interest to TRNMTH

10. We understand that in the review and preparation of the Plan, a working group made up of mandated Regional Management Committee representatives was established. It must be noted that TRNMTH are Mana whenua of our areas of interest.
11. To this extent, we note that an environmental planning document is being developed on behalf of TRNMTH and our three marae. Within the document, TRNMTH intends to confirm that it is representative of an Iwi planning document. The intent is for this planning document to be lodged with relevant territorial authorities, including Waitomo District Council, as a relevant Iwi planning document within the lifetime of this Plan. Accordingly, we welcome any future collaboration to ensure that the Plan incorporates our aspirations into its policy provisions and rules.

EARTHWORKS, HAPORI WHĀNAUI, TE MAIKA PRECINCT

12. In relation to the Earthworks, Hapori Whānui and Te Maika precinct chapters, we are supportive of the recommendations made within the s42A reports in regard to accepting the relief sought in our submission.

MĀORI PURPOSE ZONE

13. In regard to the Māori purpose zone, Appendix 3 of the s42A report prepared by Ms Wratt, states that it is recommended that the relief sought in submission point 35.22, to retain that the intent of the

zone in providing for the development of Māori owned land and supporting Mana Whenua aspirations, be accepted. We are supportive of the recommendation to accept the relief sought in our submission, as outlined in Appendix 3.

14. However, paragraph 40 of the s42A report, states that the relief sought in submission point 35.22 is recommended to be rejected. We are of the view that perhaps paragraph 40 refers to submission points 35.17-35.20 in which the relief sought includes a rule framework approach for Māori owned land, as adopted by Waikato District Council, and the deletion of the provisions that restrict the number of papakāinga residential units able to be developed on Māori owned land.
15. We remain opposed to the provisions that restrict the number of papakāinga residential units able to be developed on Māori owned land and are supportive of a rule framework approach.
16. Although the mapping/zoning of the Māori purpose zone may have some benefit to Mana whenua who are associated with that marae and surrounding areas (particularly if the land is under general title), the Plan should recognise Māori freehold land through a rule framework and not zoning. A zoning approach does not provide for development at the same level as general users. A rule framework approach would be more beneficial for Mana whenua and the development of Māori owned land as it ensures that Mana whenua can utilise land resources sustainably and to contribute to restoring customary activities on Māori whenua, as intended by the purpose of the zone, which would already be limited due issues such as reverse sensitivity on existing lawfully established activities and removes additional limitations already experienced by Māori land owners. It is important that provisions within the Plan for Māori owned land are more enabling.

CONCLUSION

17. We seek that the relief sought by TRNMTH be accepted and those changes to the Plan as sought within our submission and any further changes required to address our concerns.
18. We welcome any future collaboration to ensure that the Plan incorporates our aspirations, as Mana whenua of our areas of interest, into its policy provisions and rules.