

BEFORE THE HEARING COMMISSIONERS

IN THE MATTER OF

the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of APP-2005011178.01
and APP-2018201909.00 for resource
consents associated with the operation of
the Eketāhuna Wastewater Treatment
Plant, including construction of a wetland,
diversion of water, construction of a bund,
a discharge into the Makakahi River, a
discharge to air (principally odour), a
discharge to land via pond and wetland
seepage, Bridge Street, Eketāhuna.

STATEMENT OF

Oriana Paewai

on behalf of:

Rangitāne o Tamaki-Nui-a-Rua Incorporated

Dated: 27 November 2018

1. My name is Oriana Paewai. I am the Chief Executive of Rangitāne O Tamaki-Nui-a-Rua Incorporated (Rangitāne). I have prepared this statement to set out the position of Rangitāne O Tamaki-Nui-a-Rua Incorporated on the applications related to this hearing.
2. I have read the application documents for the wetland proposal, including the Cultural Impact Assessment, and I am familiar with the evidence prepared by Mr Phillip Percy on this application and the evidence of Mr Percy and Mr Manahi Paewai (cultural expert) on the preceding Eketahuna consent applications.
3. In Rangitāne's submission on Tararua District Council's resource consent application, reference APP-2018201909.00, on 13 August 2018, Rangitāne sought that:

Either:

1. *That the application is declined;*

Or

2. *That a comprehensive assessment of effects on the environment is prepared, including assessment of cultural and natural character effects, and the processing of the application is paused until that information has been provided, and*
 3. *That the Applicant provides information, based on consultation with Rangitāne, on what outcomes are required to be met as part of a wastewater discharge solution in order to address adverse effects on cultural values, mauri, and Rangitāne's relationship with the environment, and thereafter provides an evaluation of the options to achieve those outcomes; and*
 4. *The proposed activity is amended and/or conditions of consent are imposed to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the environment, including adverse effects on Rangitāne's relationship and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga; and*
 5. *If resource consent is granted, that it is for a term of no more than 5 years.*
4. We asked Mr Phillip Percy to prepare a short statement of planning evidence to set out the context within which Policy 5-11 of the One Plan needs to be understood and interpreted in respect of the proposed wetland. Rangitāne will be presenting no other evidence in support of its submission.
 5. The Applicant provided us with the opportunity to prepare a cultural values assessment of the wetland proposal. We acknowledge the considerable effort that Ngati Kahungunu went to to produce their cultural values assessment document focused on the Makakahi River and consider much of the information on the state of the awa is very helpful (although we do not agree with the statements in the document relating to Whakapapa

and historical events). We note that the Ngāti Kahungunu assessment explicitly stated that it did not assess the wetland proposal and we understand why that was the case.

6. We chose not to produce a cultural values assessment in part because we were concerned that the CVA was simply to be part of the assessment of a forgone wetland discharge solution: here is our solution, please evaluate the effects of it on your cultural values. What would have been more benefit to the process would have been if the applicant had come to us and said 'we would like to better understand your cultural values and relationships with this area to help us understand what we need to do to appropriately treat and discharge our wastewater'.
7. Having considered the application documents and the Cultural Values Assessment prepared for Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua, we remain unconvinced that the proposed wetland will address the cultural issues related to the disposal of human wastewater. Specifically, we consider that the proposed wetland will result in:
 - a. The continued direct discharge of sewage into the river,
 - b. The continuation of discharges of contaminants to the river and related groundwater through seepage from the ponds and the base of the wetland, and
 - c. the continued contribution of nutrients and other contaminants in combination with other discharges into the catchment.
8. Consequently, the wairua and mauri of the Makakahi River will continue to be adversely affected, which will adversely impact on our traditional relationships with that river, such as mahinga kai. The health and wellbeing of the river has a direct bearing on the health and wellbeing of the land and people.
9. As an example of how such discharges impact on us, our whanau living in Pahiātua are being asked to drink water that is affected, directly or indirectly, by contaminants discharged into the Mangatainoka River catchment (see newspaper article in Appendix A). While the water may be 'safe' to drink, the quotes in that article show that people do not wish to drink the water because of its taste, smell and appearance despite having been through treatment processes. If people on the Pahiātua water supply also knew that the wastewater from Eketahuna was discharged into a tributary of the river their water supply is drawn from, that may cause further concern, especially for people who have strong cultural beliefs that human waste should not be put into water without first being cleansed by the land.
10. The situation with the Pahiātua water supply highlights that humans are disrespecting and exploiting Papatūānuku and it reinforces our concerns about continuing to put waste

from our activities into the awa. It is an embarrassment for us as kaitiaki that the water in our rivers should be in such a state in our own rohe.

11. In evidence for the earlier hearing, Mr Paewai detailed the values Rangitāne associates with the Mākakahi River and the adverse effects that the proposed discharge will likely have on those values. We have seen no evidence or information from the applicant, cultural or otherwise, that changes our view that the mauri of the Mākakahi River and our cultural relationship with the river will continue to be directly and severely impacted by the proposed discharges following the introduction of the proposed wetland.
12. Relying on Mr Percy's evidence for this hearing, we question the applicant's assumption that, merely by causing human sewage to 'flow overland' in a technical sense via a proposed wetland, the outcomes underpinning Policy 5-11 will be achieved. In our view, the One Plan is clear that the implementation of the Plan's policies must achieve, or contribute towards the achievement of, the objectives of the Plan, including those that involve providing for the identified values (including mauri). We see no evidence in the information and assessments provided by the applicant of how the complete set of Plan outcomes have been considered in the design of the proposal.
13. The Cultural Values Assessment prepared for the applicant by Mr Black and others says that whether the proposed wetland "will address tikanga Māori issues can only be answered when wetland designs and configurations are finalised for each location" (CIA, p.59). This assessment is at some distance from providing the surety needed now that the wetland will attain the One Plan requirement to 'maintain or enhance' mauri. Mr Black has suggested several additional components to the wetland design, presumably to further ameliorate cultural concerns. These include:
 - a) Addition of buffering capacity prior to wetland entry;
 - b) A trench to provide dual functions of additional filtration and allowing for the treated wastewater to "pass through" Papatūānuku for spiritual cleansing; and
 - c) A further monitoring point at wetland exit.
14. However, again, there is no guarantee that these amendments to the wetland will result in the maintenance or enhancement of the mauri of the Makakahi River. While they may well have benefits, we consider that they are only amendments to a solution that has been adopted without first developing an understanding of what the wastewater treatment and discharge outcomes should be.
15. Rangitāne's aspiration is to restore and sustain the mauri of the Manawatū catchment, and this is clearly expressed in *Te Kāuru Taiao Strategy*, which was appended to Mr Paewai's evidence for the first Eketahuna hearing. Our view has not changed from that

expressed in Mr Paewai's 2017 evidence; that the proposed discharge and wetland "will have a direct and significant impact on our cultural values, our mana and our tikanga." Consequently, we continue to request the relief set out in our submissions.

Dated: 27 November 2018

Oriana Paewai

APPENDIX A

Newspaper article: Pahiataua water supply

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Mangatainoka River algal bloom causing a stink with Pahiatua tap water

Paul Mitchell • 11:08, Nov 25 2018



SUPPLIED

Pahitua residents are being asked to limit water use to help reduce issues with foul-smelling and tasting tap water after a blue-green algal bloom in the Mangatainoka River.

Pahiatua residents are turning to bottled and tank water, after days of being turned off by the foul

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tasting and smelly water coming from their taps.

Water from the Mangatainoka River had taken on a "noticeable taste and odour", as it flowed through the Pahiatua water system, because of a blue-green algal bloom in the river, Tararua District Council plant and property manager Dave Watson said.

Water restrictions are in place for the town, and residents are advised to avoid any outdoor water use, such as hosing gardens, until further notice.

If there was less demand for water, less would need to be drawn from the river to supplement the town's water bore – which should help make the taste and smell less noticeable, Watson said.

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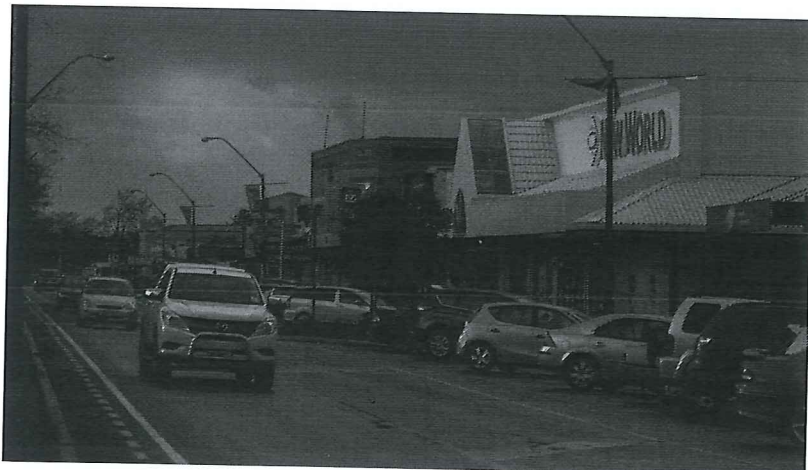
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DAVID UNWIN/STUFF

Pahiatua cafes are switching to bottled or tank water, but chlorination and UV treatments mean tap water is still safe despite the taste, council spokesman Dave Watson says.

Riverwater samples have been taken and sent for testing, as part of the council's standard water management procedures to monitor the bloom.

"Hopefully this will only be a short term issue, and some good rainfall will help freshen the river supply quickly and any algal blooms will disappear."

Ministry of Health officials indicated there were no algae in the latest samples – the council expected to get written confirmation on Monday, Watson said.

He said the town's water was still being chlorinated and UV treated, so it was safe to drink in the meantime. However, two 30,000 litre tanks have been placed at the Pahiatua Sports Stadium, with fresh water on tap for the public to use if they preferred.

Fondest Love Cafe owner Margo Manning said the town's tap water had a yellow tinge to it, and definitely smelt a lot worse than the usual whiff of chlorine.

"It smells really bad coming out the tap ... I haven't tasted it, just by the colour and the smell I can see I'd rather not."

Manning said the cafe was still buying in bottled water for beverage and food preparation.

"The only thing we'll use [the tap water] for is dishwashing, and none of the staff are drinking it at home either."

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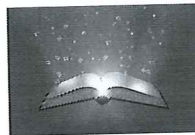
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