

## **Presentation from the Manawatu Estuary Trust**

### **Pahiatua Waste Water Treatment Plant Consent Hearing 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

With respect to the commissioners and others who are making submissions

The profile of the Manawatu Estuary has not been highlighted enough in these considerations.

The Manawatu River has a collective catchment area of 3 ranges, the Tararua, Puketoi, and Ruahine

.2/3 of its catchment area is on the eastern side of the Tararua and Ruahine ranges with runoff from three distinct types of sediment and land formation.

The Estuary is the receiver of nutrients and elements unsurpassed.

Hence the very large populace of marine bio categories and its bird diversification both shoreline and wetland species.

In our original submission from my own personal as well as Manawatu Estuary Trust we stated a land disposal regime consistent with the one plan.

Pahiatua has a population of approximately 1500.

Affordability comes under a bracket with no land available for use for land disposal.

It has a rainfall of approx 1.2 meters per annum.

At mediation, the bland statement was given that land was not available and that was the reason for embarking on the present proposal.

Within a 24 hour period on normal runoff days, combined water (and effects) of these discharges reach our estuarine area and is stop banked by the incoming flow of tidal movement 2 times daily, that is 4 hours out of 24 hours. It is then that fine particles of the turbidity content settle and line embankments within the tidal stretch. (centre of gravity) This can be seen simply by walking the banks.

With any water velocity there is an action of eddying from either embankment which reverses the process of flushing to the degree that it is largely responsible for effects of deposits on embankments

The Estuary is approximately 1 square mile

No township or populace living on a river bank should not be made aware of their responsibility for further downstream. In fact it has now become fundamental to our environmental stewardship and environmental Law and the total outline and focus of the One Plan.

Essentially the Estuary is the natural feeding platform for the species that congregate there and have done so for millennia.

In the last 150 years, the human population density has used the same river exit process to carry its waste and disposals away from its habitation to the Estuary.

Clay sediments have given the ability for aerobic and anaerobic layers to be created within the river bed, literally a library of pollution.

The Manawatu Estuary is an international Ramsar site and is a feeding ground for 3 endangered species.

The Manawatu Estuary has a function capacity and its ability to support its total biodiversity is determined by the integrity of its sediments, nutrients versus pollutants eg toxins

We have profiles of our population declining and anecdotal evidence of experience that the decline is dramatic

There has been little or no mention of Estuary effects in these proceedings.

We stand by the Regional One Plan Policy 5:11 that in the course of update or renewal of any collective discharge that land use should be prioritised notwithstanding the fact that a township with a comparable population eg Shannon (population 4x greater) with rainfall tenure similar to Pahiatua has by public demand and consultation put in a wholly land disposal system now in operation.

Mahinga and Moana Kai We support wholly the values of the Mauri of the river and its water quality.

These are tangible values, essential to water quality, although expressed in cultural terms.

We have a regional policy statement which all have had opportunity to help formulate (one whole lot of consultation went into formulating Policy 5:11.)

It is essential to us that we don't accept any strategy of avoidance or evasion.

Kelvin Lane

Chairperson      Manawatu Estuary Trust