

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF INQUIRY**

**IN THE MATTER** of the Resource  
Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of applications for  
resource consent and  
notices of requirement  
by Transpower New  
Zealand Limited for the  
North Island Grid  
Upgrade Project

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF TAHI FRANCIS NGAKETE ON BEHALF OF  
TRANSPOWER NEW ZEALAND LIMITED  
(Tangata whenua consultation)**

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## INTRODUCTION

### Qualifications

1. **MY** name is Tahi Francis Ngakete. I am a kaumatua of Ngati Naho and live at Hopuhopu near Ngaruawahia in the heart of the Waikato.
2. **MY** experience includes time with various government departments, including the Department of Maori Affairs. My experience which I consider most relevant to the North Island Grid Upgrade Project (**Upgrade Project**) is my service with the Tainui Trust Board (1993-1999) and with the Nga Muka Development Trust during the same period.
3. I was also employed as a consultant dealing with resource management and cultural issues associated with the development of the Department of Corrections facility at Springhill near Te Kauwhata. In that capacity, I represented the interests of the Waikato Raupatu Land Trust, the successor organisation to the Tainui Trust Board. I am presently employed as a cultural adviser to a Hamilton-based mental health programme.

### Background

4. **IN** late 2004, Buddy Mikaere and Associates contracted me to assist with the organisation and facilitation of the Transpower New Zealand Limited's (**Transpower**) iwi consultation strategy and I have continued in that role up to the present time.
5. **MY** tasks have included:
  - (a) ensuring contact was made with the proper representatives of the various iwi, hapu and marae;
  - (b) liaison with various groups and individuals in preparation for consultation hui;
  - (c) confirming catering and other administrative details for consultation hui;

- (d) facilitating hui, including representing Transpower in powhiri and generally ensuring proper tikanga requirements were observed;
  - (e) introducing Transpower representatives and experts and providing clarification in *Te reo* where necessary to ensure that the information being provided and feedback was clearly understood by both parties;
  - (f) translation of proceedings for Transpower representatives as needed; and
  - (g) follow-up liaison work.
6. I confirm that I have read and am familiar with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses in the Environment Court Consolidated Practice Note (2006). I have approached the preparation of this evidence in the same way that I would for the Environment Court.
7. I am familiar with the entire length of the proposed 400kV capable line, which will initially operate at 220kV from Pakuranga Substation in the north to Whakamaru Substation in the south.
8. I am also familiar with the underground portion of the project from Brownhill Road to Otahuhu and Pakuranga having been involved in the iwi consultations for that section (when it formed part of the 400kV overhead project). Subsequently, some parts now form a section of the underground cable project.
9. I was also involved in several of the expert strategy workshops held during the course of the Upgrade Project. This involvement gave me a wide appreciation of the project and enabled me to make a contribution to the strategy.
10. **IN** preparing this evidence, I have reviewed the appropriate documentation and meeting notes as well as the relevant consultation emails. I was provided with all the relevant information such as project descriptions and maps, needed to carry out my role.
11. **IT** is pertinent to note that I can whakapapa to, or have a close knowledge of, all the tribal and hapu groups along the entire area covered by the Upgrade

Project, including the cable section, having dealt with all of them in formal and informal contacts over the years.

### **Scope of evidence**

12. **MY** evidence outlines the methods of consultation with tangata whenua, and the general outcomes of the process. My evidence needs to be read in conjunction with that of Mr Buddy Mikaere, Dr Peter Phillips, Mr Dougall Campbell, Mr Steven Taylor and Mr Brent Druskovich, the project archaeologist.

### **CONSULTATION WITH TANGATA WHENUA**

#### **Transpower approach**

13. **AS** discussed by Mr Mikaere, the Transpower approach to consultation with tangata whenua was reasonably straightforward beginning with the initial investigation of route options when the project was first made public in early 2005, and continuing through to the final route selection. At all times it had as an objective the task of ensuring that all Maori along the proposed routes and subsequently the entire length of the Upgrade Project, including the underground section, were made aware of what was being proposed by Transpower, and had had the opportunity to learn more and participate in discussion if they desired that course of action.

#### **Organisation of meetings and hui**

14. **MOST** of Tainui is well organised and used to consultation hui as a means of informing the people about issues of the day and similar. This is because many *take* (issues and concerns) are dealt with in the course of a year and there is a well established round of hui associated with regular events, such as the annual poukai (which is a forum where various issues within the tribe are debated and discussed). I accessed this expertise in most instances, but in other instances contact information was out of date or missing, and this made hui organisation more difficult.

15. **THE** hui were advertised in advance by way of newspaper and radio panui, and as the programme got underway – by word of mouth. There were a number of repeat attendees at many of the initial hui.
16. **THESE** initial hui were led by the Transpower project management team, in particular Mr Dougall Campbell, Mr Steven Taylor and Transpower engineering staff and other advisers also attended. Continuity in terms of the make up of the Transpower consultation effort was seen as being an important way of showing respect for the mana of the tangata whenua groups being consulted. Representatives of environmental consultants (MWH) were also in attendance as they were responsible for the resource management components of the project including most consultations, co-ordination and, in conjunction with Transpower, the maintenance of the consultation record. It is my understanding however, that Transpower always took direct responsibility for tangata whenua consultations. These initial hui were normally quite large occasions, with an average of about 20 plus attendees.
17. **SUBSEQUENT** hui were smaller with attendances ranging from 1 individual to up to half a dozen, and addressed specific issues. In these situations, the attendances were by the appropriate project management people and any needed expertise to address the issues under discussion.
18. **MEETINGS** with the Ngati Raukawa Trust Board environmental team are a good example where the issues were quite specific and attendance from both sides was restricted to those best able to contribute to the matters under discussion. Not all of these hui were held on the marae, with the venue often being meeting rooms used by the various iwi organisations.
19. **ATTACHED** to my evidence as **Appendix 1** is a full list of the project Maori consultation hui, almost all of which I attended.
20. **IT** should be noted that, in addition to the consultation hui, there was much informal contact between the parties over various issues so that matters could be resolved without formal meetings. The resolution of an issue in respect of archaeological sites discovered near Whakamaru is an example.

## ISSUES RAISED IN CONSULTATION

21. **THERE** were a number of issues raised during the consultation, but surprisingly not too many of a cultural nature. I believe this is in line with the publicity the Upgrade Project initially attracted, and the issues that were current in the media at the time. By way of example, health issues featured at many hui. I also noted in some cases that the local (Pakeha) farming community had obviously influenced the hui in terms of some of the issues raised. Some hui purposefully involved tangata whenua and local Pakeha, for example, that held at Waiti marae in 2005.
22. **THE** full list of issues and the Transpower responses is outlined in the evidence of Mr Mikaere. I have examined that list and according to my records and my recollection, there are no omissions arising from all the consultation hui that I attended.

## ISSUES RAISED IN SUBMISSIONS

23. **THE** issues raised in submissions are also dealt with in the evidence of Mr Mikaere. However, I consider that I should comment on one particular issue and that relates to the opposing submission of Jacqueline Colliar (**Submission No. 1185**), which I have assumed is submitted on behalf of Taniwha marae. The submission raises concerns about the impact of the Upgrade Project on Taniwha marae. Concerns about the lack of meaningful consultation and inadequate information being provided are also raised.
24. **IN** respect of the complaint of the lack of meaningful consultation, I recall that a combined hui for Okarea and Taniwha marae was set down for 9 April 2005. I made an error in tikanga/marae protocol at the marae that led to the planned hui being abandoned. This arose from the Transpower representatives proceeding onto the marae before the powhiri and was seen as an affront by some of those in attendance.
25. I apologised to the whanau during the powhiri that followed and while this was accepted by some it was not accepted by others. In my opinion this situation related more to previous animosity between me and some members of the marae, than to Transpower and the Upgrade Project. I later suggested to the

marae people that they should approach Transpower and request another hui to enable a fresh start. However, this offer was not taken up.

26. **A** hui with the people of Okarea marae was held on 5 November 2005.
27. **AS** a result of the Taniwha marae submission mentioned above, on behalf of Transpower I have approached marae representatives and offered them an opportunity for further consultation which has been accepted. All that remains for that to take place is to find a convenient date that suits both organisations but as at the time of the writing of this evidence such a date has yet to be finalised.
28. **MY** opinion is that while the cancellation of the hui was unfortunate, from looking at the issues raised now and which are mostly of a general rather than cultural nature, I do not believe that the Upgrade Project has in any way compromised the values of the marae people as claimed in the submission by Jacqueline Colliar.

## CONCLUSIONS

29. **THIS** is the biggest consultation exercise that I have ever been involved in, and I have been impressed by the effort and resources that Transpower committed to ensuring that the Upgrade Project detail was placed in front of hapu and iwi and all other Maori who may have had an interest in the project.
30. **IN** my opinion, the willingness of Transpower to provide information and to deal with issues as quickly as possible has been a revelation. I think that as a result the Maori consultation has been relatively straightforward, which is contrary to the reaction that I would have normally expected with such a major project.

31. **IN** my experience, it is often the case that with many Maori, the first point of opposition is to describe the consultation as being inadequate or flawed in some way. My opinion is that while there may well be some opposing views on the Upgrade Project, no fault can be attached to the consultation that I was involved in.



**TAHI FRANCIS NGAKETE**  
30 January 2008

**Appendix 1**  
**Record of Transpower consultation with hui**

DATE/TIME	MARAE/ MGT COM VENUE	(HAPU)	IWI	CONTACT	TP REPS
Sunday 20/03/05-1pm Complete	Maurea and Horahora combined Te Ohaaki Rd, Rangiriri	Naho/Hine	Waikato	Treasure: Ata Ngakete (Maurea Marae) 10 Ashwell Cres RD2 Taupiri 2171 07 824 5285 Sec; Emma Witika (HoraHora Marae) C/- 8 Fergusson Ave Huntly 07 826 4081	Dougall Campbell, Allan Bradshaw, Dave Boyle, Steve McAdams, Tahi Ngakete
Wednesday23/03/ 05 2pm Complete	Waahi Whanui Parry St Huntly (No advert required)	Mgt Committee	Waikato	Norman Hill (Environment Mgr) C/- Waahi Whanui Trust PO Box 227 Huntly 07 828 9695 021 750436	Dougall Campbell, Dave Boyle, Tahi Ngakete
Thursday 24/03/05 11am Complete	Huakina Roulston St Pukekohe	Mgt Committee	Waikato	Te Urikore (Selwyn) Shaw (Environment Mgr) Huakina Development Trust PO Box 319 Pukekohe 09 238 0250	Dougall Campbell, Dave Boyle, Tahi Ngakete
Friday 1/04/05 10.30am  Completed	Te Waka Totara (Ngai Tai Umupuia) (No advert required)	Mgt Committee	Waikato	James Brown (Te Waka Totara Trust) C/- Umupuia Marae North Rd, Clevedon RD2 Papakura 027 471 1067	Jenny Chetwyn, Paula Hunter, Tahi Ngakete
Saturday 02/04/05 10.30am  Completed	Hoe o Tainui and Waiti combined Waiti Pa	Makirangi/ Paoa	Waikato/Paoa	Secretary: Russell Wilson (Hoe o Tainui) 101 Bruce Ave Glenview Hamilton 07 843 5192 Chair; Allan Wishart (Waiti Marae) 39 Holland Rd, Fairfield, Hamilton 07 854 9123 07 855 7407	John Miles, Sylvia Allan, Tahi Ngakete
Sunday 03/04/05- 10.30am  Completed	Horahora and Maurea combined Horahora Rd Rangiriri	Naho/Pou	Waikato	Sec: Emma Witika (Hora) as above 07 826 4081  Treasurer; Ata Ngakete (Mau) as above 07 824 5285	Jenny Chetwyn, Sylvia Allan, Tahi Ngakete
Sunday 03/04/05 2pm  Completed	Mangatangi Mangatangi Rd	Tamaoho/ Kohenki	Waikato	Chair; Tori Graham (Mangatangi Marae) 107 Dominion Rd Papakura 09 299 8635	Jenny Chetwyn, Sylvia Allan, Tahi Ngakete

DATE/TIME	MARAE/ MGT COM VENUE	(HAPU)	IWI	CONTACT	TP REPS
Saturday 09/04/05 10.30am  Complete (in part) Further hui required	Taniwha and Okarea combined McGovern Rd Waerenga	Mahuta/Hine	Waikato	Sec: Janette Paekau (Taniwha Marae) 40 Old Taupiri RD, Ngaruawahia 07 824 8870 Chair: Rangimarie Puru (Okarea Marae) PO Box 280008 Flat Bush, Manukau City 07 826 7709	Paula Hunter, Steve McAdams, Annette McGovern, Tahi Ngakete
Tuesday 12/04/05 6pm Completed	Puukaki Pukaki Rd, Mangere	Te Akitai	Waikato	Brown Rauwhero (Puukaki Marae) C/- PO Box 88072 Clendon, Manukau City	Dougall Campbell, Paula Hunter, Mike Tucker, Allan Bradshaw, Tahi
Wednesday 13/04/05 12pm Completed	Pohara Marae Oreipunga Rd Arapuni (no advert)	Ngati Raukawa/Ngati Koroki Kahukura	Raukawa	Steve Wilson  See below: Te Mana Taiao	Dougall Campbell, Mike Tucker, Allan Bradshaw, Tahi Ngakete
Wednesday 13/04/05 6pm  Completed	Kai a te Mata and Rukumoana combined  Morrinsville	Haua	Waikato	Sec: Te Ao Marama Maaka (Kai a te Mata Marae) 21 Sain Cres Morrinsville 07 889 5565 Chair: Oscar Dixon 07 889 4200	Dougall Campbell, Allan Bradshaw, Mike Tucker, Pat Jacques, Richard Harkness, Tahi Ngakete,
Thursday 14/04/05 6pm  Completed	Whatapaka Marae/Ngati Tamaoho Trust Whatapaka Rd (No Advert) Karaka	Ngati Tamaoho	Waikato	Dennis Ngataki ( Ngati Tamaoho Trust) PO Box 27242 Papakura 09 292 7365 027 229 4377	Dougall Campbell, Andrew Gard, Tahi Ngakete
Saturday 16/04/05 10.30am Cancelled	Tauhei From Taupiri take Orini Rd, Pass the Timber Mill next turn right (Tauhei Rd)	Wairere	Waikato	Secretary: Dawn Tawha (Tauhei Marae) 40 Pine Ave Hamilton 07 843 2286	
Saturday 23/04/05 10.30am Completed	Pikitu Putaruru	Huni	Raukawa	Ruthana Begbie (Pikitu Marae) PO Box 5 Putaruru	Dougall Campbell, Rob Derks, Steve McAdams, Adam Forbes, Tahi Ngakete
Awaiting Date	Nga Mana Toopu	Management Committee	Waikato	Wiremu Puke (Nga Mana Toopu o Kirikiriroa Trust) 105 Tawa St Hamilton	Dougall Campbell
4/05/05 1pm Completed	Ngati Paoa Whanau Trust – Waiti Marae, Waiti Rd off Tahuna Rd (No Advert)	Iwi Management Committee	Paoa	Glenice Wigg (Ngati Paoa Whanau Trust) 4G O'Connell Crt Hamilton 07 850 5994	Dougall Campbell, Andrew Gard, Lee Wood, Tahi Ngakete, Paula Hunter
Saturday 07/05/05 10.30am Completed	Tauhei From Taupiri take Orini Rd, Pass the Timber Mill next turn right (Tauhei Rd)	Wairere	Waikato	Chair: Violet Poihipi 07 843 2286 see above	Dougall Campbell, Lee Wood, Pat Jacques, Tahi Ngakete

DATE/TIME	MARAE/ MGT COM VENUE	(HAPU)	IWI	CONTACT	TP REPS
Nga Tai ki Tamaki Completed	Ngai Tai ki Tamaki	Committee	Waikato	Mark Stevens 6-14 Homestead Drive, Mt Wellington	Buddy Mikaere, Steve Taylor
Ongoing (see Pohara Marae entry below)	Te Mana Taiao Environment Trust	IC Solutions represents a number of Raukawa marae	Raukawa	Steven Wilson Ph (07) 838 3023 Mob (021) 454523 Fax: (07) 834 1367 E <a href="mailto:steven.wilson@icsolutions.co.nz">steven.wilson@icsolutions.co.nz</a> Post: PO Box 963 Hamilton	Dougall Campbell, Jenny Chetwyn, Tahī Ngakete
Ongoing	Waikato Raupatu Lands Trust		Waikato	Julian Williams WRLT Environment Officer Private Bag 542 Ngaruawahia (07) 824 5640 021 379 310	Dougall Campbell, Jenny Chetwyn, Tahī Ngakete
11 July 2005 Complete	Raukawa Trust Board	Raukawa THS Associates	Raukawa	Traci Houpapa General Manager RTB Ph 021455335	Dougall Campbell, Tahī Ngakete
2 August 2005 Complete Cables	Puukaki Marae Pukaki Rd, Mangere	Te Aakitai, Ngati Paoa & Ngai Tai ki Umupuia	Waikato Paoa	Brown Rauwhero P O Box 88072 Clendon Manukau	Steve Taylor Andrew Gard Tahī Ngakete
9 August 2005 Overhead Lines Complete	Umupuia marae Clevedon	Ngati Paoa & Ngai Tai ki Tamaki	Waikato Paoa		Dougall Campbell Andrew Gard, Tahī Ngakete
17 August 2005 Complete	Ngati Naho offices, Huntly	Ngati Naho Kaitiaki Society Inc & Waahi Whanui Trust	Waikato	Tommy Moana (Ngati Naho Kaitiaki Society Inc) P O Box 182 Ngaruawahia	Dougall Campbell, Steve McAdams, Annette McGovern, Tahī Ngakete
19 August 2005 Iwi Health Forum discussed	Raukura Hauora o Tainui (Maori Health Provider) Novotel Tainui-Hamilton			Timi Maipi	Dougall Campbell, Tahī Ngakete
14 September 2005 Complete	Waikato Raupatu Lands Trust, Endowed College, Ngaruawahia	Tainui	Waikato	Julian Williams	Dougall Campbell, Steve McAdams, Annette McGovern, Tahī Ngakete
15 September 2005 Complete	Tauhei marae	Ngati Wairere	Waikato	Violet Poihipi	Dougall Campbell, Steve McAdams, Annette McGovern, Tahī Ngakete
02/10/05 Completed	Maungatautari marae		Raukawa	Alison Tairi	Dougall Campbell, Steve McAdams, Tahī Ngakete

DATE/TIME	MARAE/ MGT COM VENUE	(HAPU)	IWI	CONTACT	TP REPS
04/10/05 Complete	Raukawa hui with new Environmental manager		Raukawa	Traci Houpapa	Dougall Campbell & Tahī Ngakete
05/10/05 Complete	Ongaroto marae		Raukawa		Dougall Campbell, Steve McAdams, Annette McGovern, Tahī Ngakete
05/11/05 Complete	Okarea marae				Steve Taylor, Sylvia Allan, Tahī Ngakete
07/11/05 Complete	Raukawa Trust Board (Stephanie O'Sullivan) urgent meeting			Traci Houpapa & Stephanie O'Sullivan	Dougall Campbell, Steve McAdams & Tahī Ngakete
13/11/05 Complete	Parawera Marae				Dougall Campbell, Steve McAdams, Annette McGovern, Tahī Ngakete
21/11/05 Complete	Kai a te Mata Marae		Waikato		Dougall Campbell, Steve McAdams, Annette McGovern, Tahī Ngakete
15/12/05 Complete	Raukawa Trust Board (Stephanie O'Sullivan)				Steve Taylor, Tahī Ngakete, Buddy Mikaere
21/01/06 Complete	Pikitu marae and walkover of project area				Steve McAdams, Tahī Ngakete, Brent Druskovich
1/03/06 Complete	Ouarangi		Ngai Tai and Tamaki Makaurau	James Brown; Saul Roberts	Tahī Ngakete, Dougall Campbell
12/04/06 Postponed	Ngaruawahia		Kahui Kaumatua		
15/11/06 Complete	Pukaki Marae		Tamaki Makaurau Marae Committee	James Brown/Julie	Dougall Campbell, Rob Deller, Keita Kohere, Tahī Ngakete
15/03/07 Complete	Underground Route Field Trip		Ngai Tai ki Umupuia	James Brown representing Ngai Tai, Te Aki Tai, Ngati Te Ahi Waru; Ngati Paoa	Steve Taylor; Brent Druskovich, Keita Kohere, Maureen Pryor
3/04/07 Complete	386 Don Bucks Rd, Massey		Ngati Paoa Whanau Trust	Hariata Gordon	Steve Taylor, Keita Kohere, Tahī Ngakete

DATE/TIME	MARAE/ MGT COM VENUE	(HAPU)	IWI	CONTACT	TP REPS
3/07/07 Ongoing	Pohara Marae		Ngati Koroki Kahukura	Willie Te Aho, Taotao Tauroa, Wally Papa, Aunty Rosie, Aunty Maxine	Steve Taylor, Keita Kohere, Tahi Ngakete
16/08/07 Complete	Raukawa Trust Board Offices, Tokoroa		Raukawa Trust Board	Dixie Farrar Stephanie O'Sullivan	Dougall Campbell, Tahi Ngakete, Keita Kohere, Steve McAdams