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Nga Hapu o Ahipara, Te Taitokerau

Submission on the Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

Section 49 of the Resource Management Act 1991

The specific provisions of the proposal that my submission relates to are:

All

Our submission is:

Nga Hapu o Ahipara

Nga hapu o Ahipara, represents the people of Ngati Rokeka, Ngati Houpure, Ngati Pakahi, Ngati Moetonga and Te Parewhero. Our marae are Te Ohaki, Korou Kore and Wainui with close affiliations to Te Uri o Hina and Te Rarawa Marae in Pukepoto. Our district spans from Taitea Sou'west of Tauroa point, northwards to Ngapae (Waipapakauri ramp). Eastwards Nga hapu o Ahipara's boundary line is at the Waitapu stream near Pukepoto. Nga Hapu o Ahipara represent over 4,000 people who descend from our common ancestor, Tumoana of the Te Rarawa tribe. Nga Hapu o Ahipara have proven continual occupation of our ancestral lands and have never ceased to exercise our kaitiakitanga rights over the waterways in our district.

Nga Hapu of Ahipara believe we have inherent and practical working knowledge that will contribute positively to the proposed freshwater management plan. It is vital that we are involved in the continued management of our freshwater resources to sustain the health and well being of our community and indeed our environment.

We are actively restoring our local stream Wairoa by working closely with the Ahipara school, Far North Environment centre and community to plant native trees along the banks of this river. Wairoa has special significance to all Maori as one route for the spirits to travel on their way to Te Reinga. The Wairoa also holds our tuna stocks for the Ahipara hapu and is a favourite swimming spot for our local tamariki. Despite attempting to restore the health of the stream, we are continually witnessing contractors taking water from the stream during the height of summer to use on roadworks via the soil and water plan rule 24.1.6. In September 2008 a ditch was dug to release stagnant water into Wairoa using the Health Protection Act. This angered and upset the Hapu of Ahipara who were not consulted and as a result we are currently working with the Northland District Health Board to build a respectful relationship for better freshwater management.

Te Runanga o Te Rarawa recognises the rights of Nga Hapu of Ahipara to determine the management of our own resources.

Nga Hapu o Ahipara's vision is;

"Our descendants 7 generations ahead will all be able to drink freely and plentifully from any waterways without fear of sickness"

Nga Hapu o Ahipara's short term goals are;

1. Hapu to actively participate in the testing of our freshwater to ensure it is safe for our community.
2. Hapu to participate in the management of our waterways by providing information on the history of the area to ensure that the waterways are greater protected.
3. If deemed necessary the Hapu will have the rights to restrict access to the waterways. Therefore ensuring that the tikanga of tapu and rahui are understood and adhered to at by the hapu and wider community.
4. The tikanga of Waimaori is paramount. No sewage or contaminated water to enter the waterways at all. Severe penalties for this infringement including up to \$150,000 fine and 2 years jail term. Hapu will receive a minimum of 50% of the fine money to fund the Hapu management of the freshwater ways.
5. All farms with animal stock must compulsory fence their land to stop animals from entering the waterways and contaminating the area. This fence should be well maintained by the land owner and at least 2 metres from the waterway to allow for the breeding of Inanga and other species.
6. Our recommendation is that all bordering farms have a system in place that deals with animal effluent and waste so that under no circumstances does this waste enters the waterway.
7. To restrict the amount of water taken using the soil and water plan rule 24.1.6 to 20 cubic meters per day however the hapu must first provide consent via the resource management act.

8. Any water taken using the soil and water plan for roading purposes must be charged for at commercial rate with a minimum of a 50% fee going to the local hapu to pay for their freshwater monitoring and management services.

Kahore e tautokohia

Nga Hapu o Ahipara oppose the current draft however we would like to contribute to further development of the NPS to ensure that Hapu and the government can better manage our important resource.

Nga Hapu o Ahipara need to greater exercise our rights as kaitiaki to ensure the survival of our next generations.

Nga Hapu o Ahipara are willing to establish a positive working relationship with other stakeholders at the acceptance and acknowledgement of our mana motuhake.

We do not support S.32 as it is incorrect and has no proven legitimacy.

Ma wai te mana whakahaere?

Nga Hapu o Ahipara own the freshwater resource in our area guaranteed by Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This needs to be further acknowledged in detail in the s.32. Failure to acknowledge Hapu ownership will result in continued divisions between the government and Hapu. At present Nga Hapu o Ahipara are determined to exercise our kaitiaki and tangata whenua rights, if the government does not accept this we must continue to resist the confiscation of this resource. Nga Hapu o Ahipara have a excellent relationship with our local Pakeha community who fully trust and support our kaitiakitanga status. This community believes tikanga Maori is mutually beneficial to them ensuring the environment will be greater protected for their future generations, to of tangata tiriti.

Proposed NPS

Our waterways in Ahipara are in poor health, despite our own initiatives for improvement. 1 billion dollars nationally over 5 years must be invested in cleaning up and protecting our waterways, if the government can spend \$500 million on a tunnel in Orewa then more importantly 1 billion minimum must be invested in our freshwater.

This budget must be allocated immediately with ongoing administration costs of \$50 million per year after 5 years. Aotearoa promotes a clean green image overseas, but the reality is we cannot drink from 90% of our waterways. If the international community was informed of this pollution it could affect food exports and tourism.

Policy needs to be established so that Hapu can establish resource management units to work closely with central and local government at managing these waterways.

6. HEARING DETAILS

I wish to be heard in support of my submission.

* If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.

Rueben Porter

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Signature of submitter

(or signature of person authorised to sign)

20 January 2009 Date

(A signature is not required if you make your submission by electronic means.)

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Rueben Porter

Nga Hapu o Ahipara