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FORM 3:

Submission on Proposal for National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

Section 49 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

To: the Chairperson
Board of Inquiry

This is a submission on the following proposed national policy statement (the proposal):

Proposed national policy statement for freshwater management.

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

The complete Proposed National Policy Statement

Our submission is:

1. This is a submission generally in support of the Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.
2. Areas of uncertainty for us, however, lie in references to the following:
 - the “co-ordination and sequencing of Land-use Development with investment in infrastructure for supply, storage and distribution of fresh water” (Objective 2);
 - “the need to provide for resilience against the biophysical effects of climate change (such as through infrastructure for supply, storage and distribution of fresh water)” (Objective 6(b));
 - “encouraging co-ordination and sequencing of infrastructure for supply, storage and distribution of fresh water” (Policy 1, (j)(i)).
3. Similarly, we are uncertain of the intention, in Objective 8, ‘Iwi and hapu roles and Tangata Whenua Values and Interests’, of the reference to these interests as being “identified and reflected” in the management of freshwater resources. Is the intention of these terms to equate to the phrase “recognize and provide for” used in the RMA section 6, and of particular relevance in this context to section 6(e) ‘the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga’? Freshwater resources are of critical importance to the well being of Tangata Whenua across a range of physical, cultural and economic contexts, and are great taonga tuku iho to them.

3. We submit that Policies 4 and 5 may not give sufficient clarity to the requirement of local authorities under these Policies to “consider” the range of matters outlined.

Changes to the Proposed Policy Statement That We Request

- 1 Re No.2 of our Submission (bullet points 1,2 and 3): We ask that some form of guidance be given to local authorities, Tangata Whenua groupings and the wider community as to the interpretation of these phrases.
- 2 Re No3 of our Submission: We submit that clarification of the phrase “identified and reflected” needs to be provided as guidance to local authorities administering the Proposed Policy.
- 3 Re No4 of our Submission: We believe that better reference needs to be made in Policies 4 and 5n to the Objectives 1 to 9 in order to provide guidance as what ‘weighting’ may best be given to these matters, or how they may be ‘sorted’.

We wish to be heard in support of our submission.*

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

Tairawhiti Earth Centre (Gisborne Environmental Centre Inc)

Signature of submitter

(or signature of person authorised to sign)

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Date January 23rd 2009

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