

## Further submission on proposed NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT for RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY GENERATION

**TO:** the Chairperson  
Board of Inquiry  
c/o PO Box 10362  
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**FROM:** Waikato-Tainui Te Kauhanganui Incorporated  
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### *Succession of Parent Body*

1. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2009, the Waikato Raupatu Trustee Company Limited was succeeded by Waikato-Tainui Te Kauhanganui Incorporated, recognised as Waikato-Tainui.

### *Significance of Waikato River to Waikato-Tainui*

2. The Waikato River is of significant cultural and historical importance to Waikato-Tainui. The Waikato River is the Tupuna Awa of Waikato-Tainui, and the people and the River are one and the same. This is reflected in the fact the tribal name "Waikato" was derived from the Tupuna Awa. This was further reaffirmed by Sir Robert Mahuta when, in filing the Waikato River Claim in the Waitangi Tribunal, he stated "*The River belongs to us just as we belong to the River*". Waikato-Tainui exercise mana whakahaere within its rohe (from Karapiro to Te Puuaha o Waikato) and were historically known as decision makers of all issues pertaining to the Waikato River. Waikato Tainui has never relinquished its mana whakahaere over the Waikato River.

### *The Deed of Settlement in Relation to the Waikato River*

3. The Waikato River settlement reflects the dual principles of Mana o te Awa and mana whakahaere. The Mana o te Awa principle encapsulates the spiritual authority, protective power and prestige of the Waikato River which, to Waikato-Tainui, has its own life force. The relationship Waikato-Tainui has with the Waikato River lies at the heart of its spiritual and physical wellbeing and its identity. The mana whakahaere principle embodies the authority Waikato-Tainui has with respect to the Waikato River to exercise control and management of the River and its resources in accordance with the values, ethics and norms of conduct embodied in the tikanga of Waikato-Tainui.
4. A key aspect of the settlement of Waikato-Tainui's claim to the Waikato River has been the preparation of a Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River. This was developed by a specially formed body, known as the Guardians Establishment Committee (which contained members appointed by both the Crown and Waikato-Tainui). The preparation of the Vision and Strategy document included calling for public submissions, and the final document was subsequently approved by both the Crown and Waikato-Tainui for inclusion in both the DoS and Settlement Legislation. The Vision and Strategy applies to the Waikato River Catchment from the Huka Falls to te Puaha o Waikato (Port Waikato).

### *Statutory Recognition of the Vision and Strategy*

5. In accordance with the DoS, the Settlement Legislation states that the Vision and Strategy is a National Policy Statement for the purposes of:
  - (a) the RMA; and
  - (b) any other Act that refers to a national policy statement under the RMA.

6. Regional Councils will therefore be required to amend their RMA planning documents to "give effect" to the provisions of the Vision and Strategy that affect that document.

*Guardians of the Waikato River*

7. The DoS and Settlement Legislation provide for the establishment of a permanent body to be known as the Guardians of the Waikato River. The principal function of the Guardians is to promote, and work to achieve, the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations and work to achieve an integrated, holistic and co-ordinated approach to the management of the Waikato River.
8. The Guardians will report on progress in achieving the Vision and Strategy every five years and review the Vision and Strategy every ten years. Waikato-Tainui objectives will form a basis for future reviews of the Vision and Strategy. The Crown and Waikato-Tainui, and other appointers for the Guardians, will review the effectiveness of the Guardians every five years.

*Further recommendation*

9. Where the proposed NPS influences environmental management matters within the Waikato River catchment; there should be a clear provision within the proposed NPS that states:

*"The NPS for Freshwater Management shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the Vision and Strategy; and best furthers the overarching purpose for the Waikato River."*

**DATED**

15 June 2009

**WAIKATO-TAINUI TE KAUHANGANUI INCORPORATED**  
By its Environmental Officer;

**Signature:**

**Julian Williams**

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