

**BEFORE THE BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**UNDER** the Resource Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF** resource consent applications by the Western Bay of Plenty District Council for the continued operation of, and discharge of treated wastewater from, the Te Puke Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF RAPONI TE RANGIKATUKUA WILSON  
ON BEHALF OF THE TĀWAKEPITO MARAE COMMITTEE (NGĀTI TŪHEKE KI TĀWAKEPITO HAPŪ)**

**4 APRIL 2019**

## **Introduction**

1. Ko Rangioru te Maunga  
Ko Waiāri me ko Kaituna Nga Awa  
Ko Tapuika te Iwi  
Ko Ruangutu te Tangata  
Ko Ngāti Ruangutu me Ngāti Tūheke Nga Hapu  
Ko Tāwakepito te Marae  
Ko Raponi Te Rangikātukua Wilson Ahau
2. I am Raponi Te Rangikātukua Wilson and I represent the Tāwakepito Marae Committee, I am appearing as a non-expert to present evidence collected from our Marae Committee.
3. Our Marae, Tāwakepito is located at Te Kahika, and our whare tupuna Tāwakepito has stood overlooking the Waiāri for more than 100 years.

## **Scope of Evidence**

4. The evidence provided will be given in this order:
  - a. The Waiāri and our connection.
  - b. The position held by the Tāwakepito Marae Committee of the consent renewal.
  - c. Tāwakepito Marae Committee Evidence and Contingency.

## **The Waiāri and our Connection**

5. The area which includes the Waiāri is known by the Tapuika Iwi as “Te Takapu o Tapuika” as proclaimed by Tia the father of Tapuika, Tapuika and his descendants settled this area from the time of the arrival of the Te Arawa Waka some several hundred years ago to the present day.
6. The Waiāri is a traditional awa of Tapuika and we the hapu, Ngāti Tūheke ki Tāwakepito as descendants of Tapuika have an intrinsic connection to our awa both physically and spiritually, we have an inherent responsibility as kaitiaki, to safeguard and ensure the care of our awa.
7. The view of the Tāwakepito Marae Committee is that the discharge of waste water to our awa the Waiāri is a direct insult and entirely offensive, we view the Waiāri as an extension of our own person and that the adverse effects of discharging waste water into the Waiāri is not only detrimental to the awa but also to our own wellbeing as an Iwi, Hapu, Whanau, Individual.

### **The Position held by the Tāwakepito Marae Committee of the Consent Renewal**

8. The Tāwakepito Marae Committee acting on behalf of the hapu Ngāti Tūheke ki Tāwakepito are absolutely opposed to the consent renewal for the Waiāri Waste Water Treatment Plant (**Resource Consent Application Number RM16-0204**).
9. Although we understand the need for a waste water treatment plant, we do not believe that this requirement super cedes the need to maintain the integrity of our awa, which this consent is in direct conflict of, and it is the responsibility of the relevant Council/s to find an alternative location and/or method of discharge.

### **Tāwakepito Marae Committee Evidence and Contingency**

10. Given our chiefly decision is to oppose the discharge as Mana Whenua and Kaitiaki, any action imposed by the Consenter on the Waiāri to the contrary is a breach of article 2 of the Treaty of Waitangi.
11. If for some reason the Consent is granted as a Contingency the Tāwakepito Marae Committee would like the following conditions to be applied:
  - a. That the consent duration sought should be decreased from 35 years to 10 years with the provision that significant effort has to be applied to finding an alternative site and/or method of discharge.
  - b. That a guardian forum/group to be created in regards to this consent and for the duration of the consent to meet frequently to discuss and receive updates on the progress of finding an alternative to discharging waste water into the Waiāri.
  - c. That the Tāwakepito Marae Committee have an appointed member on this group representing Ngāti Tūheke ki Tāwakepito
  - d. For stringent monitoring and water testing to take place and for this information to be made available to us either via our representative member on the guardian forum/group or via another communicative platform.