

**EXPERT WITNESS CAUCUSSING CONFERENCE  
AND JOINT WITNESS STATEMENT**

|                      |  |   |
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| <b>IN THE MATTER</b> | of appeals pursuant to Clause 14 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991<br><b>(the Act)</b>   |   |
| <b>BETWEEN</b>       | Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga, Te Runanganui o Heretaunga, Te Manaaki Taiao o Heretaunga and Ngati Kanhungunu Iwi Incorporated;<br>Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand; and<br>The Māori Trustee | ENV-2021-AKL-000104<br>ENV-2021-AKL-000105<br>ENV-2021-AKL-000106 |
| <b>AND</b>           | Hawke’s Bay Regional Council   |   |

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Facilitator</b> | Commissioner Ian Buchanan |
| <b>Date</b>        | 9 October 2023            |
| <b>Venue</b>       | Microsoft Teams           |

| <b>Witnesses</b> | <b>For</b>                               |
|------------------|--|
| Jens Rekker (JR) | Hawke’s Bay Regional Council             |
| Thomas Kay (TK)  | Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society |

**JOINT WITNESS STATEMENT GEOLOGY**

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|-----------|--|
|           | <b>BRAIDED RIVER CHARACTER</b>   |
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Geological characteristics of the Ngaruroro River</b>   |
|           | <b><i>Matters of Agreement</i></b>   |
|           | Experts note that the geology value set includes criterion List A(c), which relates to the Geopreservation Inventory. This would not allow any river in the Hawkes Bay to be awarded outstanding status for the Geology value set in terms of its braided character. The criteria require a water body to be listed as Class A |

in the Inventory before it can be recognised as outstanding. It should be noted that Class A recognises features with internationally acknowledged levels of importance.

Applying the balance of the Geology criteria experts agree that the Ngaruroro River between Whanawhana cable way and Maraekakaho holds outstanding geomorphological characteristics for its braided character.

Experts agree that the Geopreservation Inventory is an inconsistent and incomplete reference in the context of screening Outstanding Water Bodies and should not be relied on as a regulatory threshold.

Experts recommend that the Geology Criteria be reconsidered, particularly in light of the constraints of List A(c).

Experts agree that after considering other Hawke's Bay rivers against the balance of the Geology Criteria, no other river would be awarded outstanding status for its braided character.

***Matters of Disagreement***

**TK:** considers the outstanding braided character of the Ngaruroro River continues from Maraekakaho to the Fernhill Bridge/Omahu.

**JR:** considers that the outstanding braided character of the Ngaruroro River only extends to Maraekakaho due to the in-channel modifications to the river for both flood protection and gravel extraction.

**2. Natural Character of the lower Ngaruroro River**

Experts agree the Ngaruroro River below Whanawhana does not meet the PC7 criteria for outstanding Natural Character on the basis that when considered against the PC7 Natural Character criteria it would not meet the criteria of being within a largely indigenous landscape and riparian margins are modified.

The experts agree that the geomorphological values of the braided sections of the Ngaruroro River are inextricably linked to the habitat, ecological, and natural character values of those reaches.

Signed:



(Jens Rekker)



(Thomas Kay)

Date:

9 October

