

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

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

| | |
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| Facilitator | Commissioner Ian Buchanan |
| Date | 11 October 2023 |
| Venue | Hawke's Bay Regional Council, HIHI Teams Meeting Room |

| Witnesses | For |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Antoine Coffin (AC) | Hawke's Bay Regional Council |
| Marei Apatu (MA) | Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga |
| Maurice Black (MB) | Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga |

JOINT WITNESS STATEMENT

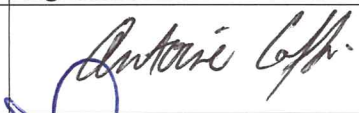


ISSUES

| CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL | |
|------------------------|---|
| | <p><i>The expert conference is for experts to discuss matters in the cultural and spiritual evidence.</i></p> |
| | <p>Screening criteria for the cultural value set</p> <p>HBRC preferred version: For a water body to provide outstanding cultural and spiritual values it must meet all matters in List A.</p> <p>List A</p> <p>a) The features are is acknowledged as having conspicuous, eminent, and/or remarkable cultural and spiritual values in the context of the Hawke’s Bay region.</p> <p>b) The features are is outstanding, in accordance with te ao Māori values, mātauranga Māori, and tikanga by the a descendant groups most closely associated with the water body.</p> <p>c) Evidence is provided in support of outstanding features.</p> |
| 1. | <p>The experts agree that the amended version of the cultural and spiritual criteria above would be appropriate for inclusion in Plan Change 7.</p> <p><i>Comment</i> <i>The amended text reflects both the singular and plural aspects of values, features and descendant groups.</i></p> |
| 2. | <p>Water as taonga Water in its many forms is a taonga due to its origins from Ranginui and Papatūānuku. Ngāti Kahungunu view water bodies as taonga. (Refer the evidence given by Ngahiwi Tomoana and Marei Apatu).</p> |
| 3. | <p>The experts agree there is an uncomfortable relationship between water bodies as taonga and the outstanding water bodies framework. There is an inherent tension between incorporating kawa/tikanga and mātauranga a hapū into a resource management planning construct. The interrelationships of the atua (children of Ranginui and Papatūānuku) and human activity are difficult to align and reconcile with a reductionist system that reflects spatial, resource, and statutory mandates.</p> |
| 4. | <p>The experts collective view is that all water bodies are highly important for their cultural and spiritual value and should be treated accordingly within the broader planning framework. However, for the purposes of Plan Change 7 it is proposed that some water bodies can be elevated above others for their outstanding values. While this does not sit well with the Māori world view, the proposed cultural and spiritual value set could be an appropriate way of assisting the identification of outstanding water bodies in a cultural context.</p> <p>The spiritual dimension requires special consideration of practices, relationships and behaviours to meet obligations and responsibilities to the atua. This is inherent in the concept of Te Mana o te Wai.</p> |

Specific Water Bodies

- 5. AC, having reviewed the evidence from Ngahiwi Tomoana and MA considers there is sufficient cultural and spiritual evidence for the following water bodies promoted by TToH and others to be included in Schedule 25.
Heretaunga Plains aquifer system
Ruataniwha Plains aquifer system
Te Karamu River
Waitangi Estuary
AC will provide further detail of his reasoning in his rebuttal evidence.
- 6. AC considers that there is insufficient cultural and spiritual evidence available to date to support the inclusion of the following water bodies in Schedule 25.
Ngaruroro River
Tukituki River (headwaters to the coastal environment boundary)
Waipawa River
Makaroro River
Ahuriri Estuary
- 7. MA and MB note that the Heretaunga Plains aquifer system and the Ruataniwha Plains aquifer system are spatially defined within the maps in Operative Regional Resource Management Plan.
- 8. MA and MB consider that the Waipawa and Makaroro Rivers are taonga and have significant cultural and spiritual values, however there is currently insufficient evidence to support these rivers as outstanding for cultural and spiritual values.
- 9. TToH and others will promote the inclusion of the outstanding cultural and spiritual values of the Ngaruroro River, Tukituki River and Ahuriri Estuary through the Kotahi planning process.

Signed:

| Witness | Signature | Date |
|----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Antoine Coffin |  | 11 October 2023 |
| Marei Apatu |  | 11 th October 2023 |
| Maurice Black |  | 11 October 2023 |
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