

Verbal Submission on Behalf of the OOTMCC

Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou katoa

Ko Chris Lambourne aho

My father merchant seaman

During the 1940's and 50's he sailed from his awa the Thames, from London.

He told me stories of the river: stories of its beauty and stories of its dangers. He also told me stories of the heavy pollution: where overnight a newly painted ship would turn from white to pink, or from black to purple.

He sailed to New Zealand, to Wellington. He did not want the pollution to follow him.

I am here representing the Office of the Maori Climate Commission.

The Commissioner could not attend this hui and sends her apologies, and she sends me as a pale substitute.

The Maori Climate Commission supports the need to recognise the mana of the awa and the whenua: the need to recognise the rangatirataunga of Maori in the Heretaunga.

Today is a big day with the Final Advice of the New Zealand Climate Commission being released. We know that this report favours farming over other parts of the people and the land and the water.

Indigenous habitats and indigenous people are the first and most severely affected by Climate Change. We link the Tank Plan – Plan Change 9 as part of the measures necessary to help indigenous habitats and indigenous people.

The Office of the Maori Climate Commissioner is wary of current farming practices. Over the 2019/2020 period the Waikato Regional Council surveyed dairy farms on water rights and discharge rights. 75% of those rights were being breached. The claim that there are only a few bad farms, a few bad farmers is wrong. We encourage the development of the TANK plan to require high levels of performance, good monitoring and timely and effective remedies to be placed on people who breach required levels of performance. Withdraw their access to water and discharge of water were the Common Good requires. These are not property rights that are to become part of businesses' balance sheet. These are puipuiaki.

- We support alignment of Plan Change 9 with the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management. The Statement promotes the fundamental concept of Te Mana o Te Wai with a hierarchy of obligations that prioritises:
 - a. the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems
 - b. the health needs of people
 - c. ability for people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being, now and in the future.

- **We support** the HBRC altering Plan Change 9 so as to meet the hierarchy of obligations set out in NPSFM 2020 and supports amending PC 9 to ensure freshwater is managed in a way that gives effect to Te Mana o te Wai.

- **We support** the recommendations made by the Heretaunga Settlement Trust and urges staff and Councillors to set aside the Pakeha lens that currently provides an advantage to those who have water over those who do not and to those who pollute over those who suffer from that pollution.

- **The Commission disagrees** with the HTST submission on one matter – that of their position on water storage (as seen in an early draft). While Council continues to support the Hawkes Bay water barons and other Pakeha holders of the water consents and their use of the water to build their business advantages, at the expense of Māori, we support the building of water storage facilities.

-
- Supports ownership of water storage by Mana Whenua to redress the generations of water being denied to them by decades of HBRC staff, Council and processes.
 - Supports a specific objective providing for Tangata Whenua to undertake monitoring throughout the life of the plan to enable the application of a diversity of systems of values and knowledge, such as mātauranga māori to the management of freshwater within the TANK catchments.
 - **Free Pass to Polluters**

The Commission is deeply concerned that polluters are being given a free pass to continue to pollute at rates that Council scientists know is unsustainable. What is worse is that these polluters have already had over ten years of notice that they have to reduce their pollution footprint and the fact that only a thousand farmers had farm management plans developed shows that unless farmers are forced to act, 90% did not and will not.
 - **Trout**

And the Commission is also concerned that given the fragility of the indigenous biodiversity trout and salmon are given the same priority as indigenous fauna and flora (see OBJ Tank 2, OBJ Tank 11, OBJ Tank 12, OBJ Tank 61 of Recommended Changes to PPC 9.) This prioritisation should be removed so that trout and salmon are not the priority, but indigenous biodiversity is the priority. Trout and salmon could be a second level priority.
 - We support Recommended Changes 6.10.1 “Use of Production Land” that has struck out all stock access to riparian areas as a permitted use. However, we note with concern that removing “stock access” (POL Tank 13c, and POL Tank 20a) from being one of the activities recognised as having significant effect on functioning of riparian margins in relation to water quality and aquatic ecosystem health in adjacent waterbodies and believe that it is necessary to retain this type of statement.

- Requests that the HBRC commits to the partnership approach outlined in Te Mana o Te Wai and stops trying to maximise protection for HB's water barons and polluting farmers.

In their submission the Heretaunga Tamatea Settlement Trust supports these last two points

where they:

1. **Identify** significant risk in achieving the intended outcomes promoted by PPC9 due to the non-regulatory methods promoted within the plan. This greatly concerns HTST as PPC9 takes a "hands off" approach and does not address with urgency the changes required to meet the governments short term objectives for improved water quality within 5 years or the longer-term outcomes sought by 2040.¹
2. **Raise their concern** at the current drafting in effect enables and provides well for existing land use activities and existing water takes by exhaustedly relying on the good will of landowners, resource users, community groups and marae through voluntary catchment collectives and industry groups rather than regulation. This is not enough to manage nutrient pollution and eutrophication of the TANK waterways particularly the tributaries.

Thank you for being given the opportunity to make our submission.

¹ <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/action-for-healthy-waterways>