

# Ngā Kaihautū Report – Samurai Wasp

## Section 1: Introduction

Ngā Kaihautū Tikanga Taiao (Ngā Kaihautū) is charged with the responsibility of providing advice and assistance, from a Māori perspective, to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on policy, processes and decision making.

This report represents views of Ngā Kaihautū regarding the application for the Samurai Wasp. Ngā Kaihautū members have examined the application along with its associated information. We have read the report provided by Te Turi Whakamātaki (Māori Biosecurity Network) in regards to wider Māori perspective and have considered this information in the development of our view.

As a result of this process and a review of the application by Ngā Kaihautū, we note that there are several outstanding matters likely to be of concern to Māori to be addressed. These concerns are introduced in this report. It should be noted however, that this may not represent all the potential issues that could be raised by affected iwi or Māori generally.

From a Māori interests perspective, until there is adequate and final redress to Treaty of Waitangi grievances, there will always exist ongoing issues around resource and environmental management. The exercise of tino rangatiratanga and the role as kaitiaki are important to Māori, and therefore will always be important to Ngā Kaihautū, and will be paramount in the promotion of Māori perspectives from Ngā Kaihautū.

## Section 2: Māori Perspective in HSNO

### Legislative Context

The EPA statutory obligations to Māori under the HSNO Act:

- Section 5(b) – Recognise and provide for the maintenance and enhancement of people and communities to provide for their cultural wellbeing
- Section 6 (d) – Take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, taonga and the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi)

The Treaty principles most relevant to assessing the application are:

- The Crown has a duty to actively protect Māori interests
- The Crown has a duty to be informed and make informed decisions
- Taonga include all valued resources, tangible and intangible

### **The role of Ngā Kaihautū**

Ngā Kaihautū is required to provide advice and assistance to the EPA, on matters relating to policy, process and applications. This advice and assistance must be given from the Māori perspective and come within terms of reference set by the EPA Board.

With this in mind, Ngā Kaihautū seek to act at all times to protect and uphold the integrity of tikanga and mātauranga and to monitor their application by the EPA to undertake its functions.

The specific functions and responsibilities of Ngā Kaihautū as outlined in the terms of reference are to:

- a. provide the EPA Board with advice on organisational planning, policy development and procedure so that it takes account of Māori perspectives including Tikanga Māori, the Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi, economic, scientific and other Māori aspirations.*
- b. recommend and assist with strategies that will enhance the knowledge, understanding and participation of Māori in relation to the functions of the EPA within the EPA Act and other environmental Acts.*
- c. advise on the membership of the sub-committees with delegated authority to make decisions, in accordance with the EPA functions (when requested by the EPA Board or a committee of the EPA Board, Ngā Kaihautū may provide this function).*
- d. review and recommend appropriate processes and protocols for ensuring the satisfactory incorporation of Māori perspectives in decision making by the EPA Board and its delegated decision makers.*
- e. advise on and monitor the activities of the EPA, including statutory decision-making, to ensure the timely, appropriate and effective incorporation of Māori perspectives.*
- f. provide advice on other functions of the EPA as required.*

In terms of the Samurai Wasp application the relevant function is (d), ensuring that the Decision Making Committee (DMC) appropriately consider and incorporate Māori perspectives in their decision on the Samurai Wasp application.

## **Incorporating Māori Perspectives into Decision Making**

Ngā Kaihautū recognises that there is no one Māori world view or perspective on resource management matters, and that the Māori perspective is different for each whānau, marae, hapū, and iwi. The intent of Ngā Kaihautū is not to supersede or replace the distinct various perspectives, but to ensure that their perspective(s) have been sought and considered by the EPA and in this case, their delegated decision makers, as well as by the applicant<sup>1</sup>.

In 2016 the EPA Board approved the Ngā Kaihautū protocol document *Incorporating Māori Perspectives into Decision Making (IMP)*. The intention of the protocol is for it to be used by decision makers (as delegated authority of the EPA) as a tool to incorporate Māori perspectives appropriately into any decision making. The protocol is also intended to be used by iwi, Māori and applicants to understand how a Māori perspective is considered in decision making. It is from this basis that Ngā Kaihautū have prepared this report as a foundation for assessment of the application and subsequently providing a Māori perspective for the decision makers.

In preparing this report it is important to understand what constitutes a Māori perspective for Ngā Kaihautū. A Māori perspective may include a wide range of perspectives, including how Te Tiriti is to be given effect to, and matters of process including consultation of hapū, iwi, and Māori generally. Also subject to any constraints in the terms of reference, any advice Ngā Kaihautū gives in relation to particular decisions will not only be from a Māori perspective but may also go to substantive matters under consideration.

## **Section 4: Samurai Wasp Application and Ngā Kaihautū Māori Perspective**

### **Samurai Wasp Application**

An application has been lodged by Brown Marmorated Stinkbug Council to introduce the Samurai Wasp to Aotearoa as a pre-emptive biocontrol for the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB).

It is our understanding of the application that the BMSB is one of the highest risk biosecurity threats currently facing New Zealand. It feeds heavily on a wide variety of plant species and would attack grapes, kiwifruit, apples, citrus, and stone fruit, corn and many other valuable crops. It has the potential to have a devastating impact on horticulture and agriculture, home gardens and may have a negative impact on culturally significant species. BMSB can rapidly reproduce and could also infest

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<sup>1</sup> Incorporating Māori Perspectives into Decision making, EPA Publication 2016

homes and become a significant household pest. The Samurai Wasp is a natural enemy of BMSB and could help to reduce the amount of broad-spectrum insecticides needed to control BMSB if the pest were to arrive in New Zealand. However, if Samurai Wasp is released there would be no feasible way to eradicate it.

### **Ngā Kaihautū Māori Perspective**

The objectives for Ngā Kaihautū developing a Māori perspective are in the IMP, which are:

- Protect and enhance the natural and built environment and ensure the resilience of ecosystems people and communities
- Uphold tikanga and the use of mātauranga
- Recognise Māori rights and interests under Te Tiriti o Waitangi<sup>2</sup> (Te Tiriti)
- Acknowledge the role of tāngata whenua

It is under these objectives that Ngā Kaihautū frame our Māori perspective.

#### *(1) Economic Impact Statement*

Māori organisations are highly invested in the primary sector. They are large contributors to the economic prosperity of both the agriculture and horticulture industry. The concern from Ngā Kaihautū is the potential impact that the BMSB will have on these primary sector businesses.

#### *(2) Home Gardens (Māra Kai) Statement*

The ability of whānau, hapū or iwi to manaaki (support and provide for) their people and manuhiri (visitors), is central to the maintenance and enhancement of mana. Manaakitanga is a key cultural principle and practice that extends to physical, spiritual and economic wellbeing.

Māra Kai are culturally significant to a Māori way of life. Marae, Kōhanga Reo, Kura and Papakāinga develop Māra Kai as a way to communally share produce among whānau, to share with visitors and for whānau young and old to maintain a tradition of growing and eating our traditional food.

The concern from Ngā Kaihautū is the potential impact that the BMSB has the potential to significantly impact Māra Kai and disrupt this self-sustaining cultural practice. In this respect, there is also potential on all home gardeners that rely on the production of fruit and vegetables to sustain

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<sup>2</sup> Te Tiriti o Waitangi is translated to Treaty of Waitangi

their families in urban and rural environments. The Samurai Wasp may aid to increase the protection of Māra Kai from BMSB and reduce the human use of and exposure to chemical sprays.

(3) *Repository of information and long-term monitoring strategy*

The kaitiakitanga responsibility of Māori to manage the balance of natural resources within and beyond their hapū and iwi boundaries for the benefit of future generations requires Māori to take a long-term view. This is inclusive of considering environmental and climatic changes that may have unanticipated implications such as extending the geological distribution of species. The concern from Ngā Kaihautū is what is proposed to develop an enduring repository of BMSB and Samurai Wasp information, monitoring strategies and data in a form accessible by kaitiaki Māori and the general-public?

(4) *Effect on Tāonga Species*

Ngā Kaihautū are not satisfied that the applicant has provided enough information for the DMC to consider the impact on native flora and fauna as they are considered tāonga by marae, hapū and iwi and any impact should therefore be strongly avoided. Key concerns from Ngā Kaihautū are:

- a. There is a lack of information in the application on the impact on New Zealand tāonga species this includes plants and the four native stinkbugs (one that is endemic) and two native wasp (one that is endemic *Trissolcus*). The species list in the application needs to be developed for a New Zealand context.
- b. What are the wider ecosystem impacts?
- c. What are the risks associated with potential species displacement?
- d. What are the risks of Samurai Wasp or BMSB moving onto other host species?
- e. What are the risks of Samurai Wasp or BMSB interbreeding with the native and/or endemic species?

(5) *Consultation and Feedback*

The application makes reference to consultation undertaken, Ngā Kaihautū are concerned by the lack of information regarding this area. For full consideration of the application, Ngā Kaihautū recommend that the DMC:

- a. Seek further information as to which Māori organisations were consulted as part of the consultation process.
- b. How was the feedback utilised in the development of the application?

This will assist the DMC to determine the extent to which the applicant took into consideration the views expressed during the consultation but more importantly how issues raised were mitigated in the development of the application.

## Section 5: Recommendations

In consideration of the issues outlined Ngā Kaihautū recommend an approval for the application conditional on the applicant providing further evidence and information based on the concerns raised below:

- a. What is proposed to develop an enduring repository of BMSB and Samurai Wasp information, monitoring strategies and data in a form accessible by kaitiaki Māori and the general-public?
- b. There is a lack of information in the application on the impact on taonga species.
- c. What are the wider ecosystem impacts?
- d. What are the risks associated with potential species displacement?
- e. What are the risks of Samurai Wasp and BMSB moving onto other host species?
- f. What are the risks of Samurai Wasp and BMSB interbreeding with the native and/or endemic species?
- g. Seek further information and evidence as to which Māori organisations were consulted as part of the consultation process.
- h. How was the consultation feedback utilised in the development of the application?

Should the DMC require further information from Ngā Kaihautū, we are available to discuss these matters at any time.