

IN THE MATTER

The Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER

of a Board of Inquiry appointed under s149J of the Resource Management Act 1991 to consider notices of requirement and applications for resource consent made by the New Zealand Transport Agency in relation to the East West Link roading proposal in Auckland

SUBMITTER

Te Ākitai Waiohū Waka Taua Incorporated

STATEMENT OF KAREN AKAMIRIA WILSON

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 My name is Karen Akamiria Wilson. I am the Chair of the Pukaki Maori Marae Committee. I am also Chair of the Te Ākitai Waiohū Iwi Authority and a member of the Te Ākitai Waiohū Waka Taua Incorporated Society.
- 1.2 I provide this statement in support of the submission by Te Ākitai Waiohū Waka Taua Incorporated Society (TAWWTI) on the East West Link project Notice of Requirement application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). I am authorised to give this evidence on behalf of TAWWTI based on my expertise in the specific history, korero, tikanga and kawa of Te Ākitai Waiohū and the Treaty of Waitangi settlement process Te Ākitai Waiohū is involved in.
- 1.3 New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) has submitted the Notice of Requirement application to EPA seeking approvals to build, operate and maintain a new state highway and associated works between State Highway 20 (SH20) in Onehunga, and State Highway 1 (SH1) in Mt Wellington, and associated works on SH1 between Mt Wellington and the Ōtāhuhu Interchange at Princes Street.

- 1.4 TAWWTI recognises the East West Link project is an important development for the people of Tāmaki Makaurau and supports the intention of the project to improve travel routes, increase accessibility and progress distribution paths in a strategically important part of a constantly growing city.
- 1.4 The East West Link project also has a significant impact on sites of significance to the people of Te Ākitai Waiohua, including the Manukau Harbour, due to project requirements involving coastal reclamation and dredging of the harbour floor.
- 1.4 Te Ākitai Waiohua seeks the protection of both its culturally significant sites and position on future Treaty of Waitangi settlement negotiations with the Crown in relation to the Manukau Harbour.

2. CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

- 2.1 TAWWTI would like to ensure the serious environmental effects of the project are avoided and mitigated as much as possible, particularly in relation to the Manukau harbour coastal environment and the crater rim of Te Hopua a Rangi (Geddes Basin also known as Gloucester Park.)
- 2.2 TAWWTI have worked with NZTA following Te Taiao principles to reach a tenable outcome that will provide for the future transport needs of Tāmaki Makaurau while protecting and preserving the Manukau harbour, local natural features and iwi cultural values. TAWWTI would like to continue the progress that has been made so far by covering matters that may need further clarification or have yet to be raised in consultation.
- 2.3 Te Hopua a Rangi (Geddes Basin) is a former tidal lagoon of great cultural significance to Te Ākitai Waiohua. Although it is already highly modified with the South Western motorway running through the crater, it still retains its historical meaning and cultural importance. this former tidal lagoon is still of great cultural significance to Te Ākitai Waiohua.

- 2.4 Te Hopua a Rangi is named after Rangihuamoa, an ancient tupuna (ancestor) of Te Ākitai Waiohua. Rangihuamoa is the wife of Huakaiwaka, the paramount chief of Waiohua. Their grandson Kiwi Tamaki was the paramount chief of Waiohua in his time and is the founding ancestor of Te Ākitai Waiohua.
- 2.5 Te Hopua a Rangi is of such significance to Te Ākitai Waiohua, the Te Ākitai Waiohua Iwi Authority is seeking to have its Māori name officially recognised as Te Hopua a Rangi (in addition to its English name Geddes Basin) as part of the cultural Treaty of Waitangi settlement redress between Te Ākitai Waiohua and the Crown.
- 2.6 Any further modification of Te Hopua a Rangi in the East West Link project must consider the significant cultural values of the site associated specifically with Te Ākitai Waiohua.
- 2.7 The Manukau Harbour is also a feature of cultural significance to Te Ākitai Waiohua which has extended from ancient times through to today. The Manukau Harbour is treasured as a means of transport and for providing food including fish, kaimoana (seafood) and birds as well as other basic necessities of life. The name of the Manukau Harbour is said to originate from the existence of coastal bird colonies in the area with "Manukau Noa Iho" meaning "just birds."
- 2.8 In terms of cultural values, Te Ākitai Waiohua is opposed in principle to any form of reclamation or dredging of the Manukau Harbour and the natural coastal environment. The East West Link project proposes various means of mitigating against the effects of reclamation and dredging or as a method of preventing further detrimental environmental effects and managing existing negative environmental effects.
- 2.9 Any further consideration around reclamation and dredging of the Manukau Harbour in the East West Link project must consider the significant cultural values of the site associated specifically with Te Ākitai Waiohua.
- 2.10 The East West Link project also impacts on other culturally significant sites. The transport route passes the base of Mutukaroa or Hamlin's Hill, a former Waiohua pa

(settlement). It also passes over Ōtāhuhu Creek, a branch of the Tāmaki River that leads to Te Tō Waka, the important waka portage route that connects the Manukau Harbour to the Hauraki Gulf and Waitemata Harbour via the river. All of these sites are significant to the history of Te Ākitai Waiohūa and Tāmaki Makaurau.

3. TREATY OF WAITANGI CLAIM TO THE MANUKAU HARBOUR

- 3.1 TAWWTI would like to ensure the Treaty of Waitangi has been properly considered in the East West Link project and, specifically, the impact the development may have on the future settlement claim negotiations over the Manukau Harbour with the Crown following the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress settlement of 2014.
- 3.2 The East West Link project proposes modifications to the Manukau Harbour that will impact and potentially prejudice future negotiation discussions with the Crown on appropriate redress and protection of the cultural values associated with the harbour.
- 3.3 Te Ākitai Waiohūa do not believe it is acceptable for the settlement negotiations process to have no or little consideration for the impact the East West Link project will inevitably have on the Manukau Harbour.
- 3.4 TAWWTI would like to see NZTA develop a strategy and plan as a means of dealing with future Treaty of Waitangi matters in relation to the East West Link project's effects on the Manukau Harbour. If this cannot be produced, TAWWTI objects to the East West Link project in full.

4. CONDITIONS SOUGHT

- 4.1 TAWWTI calls on the Board of Inquiry to add conditions to the consent for the part of the proposal I have submitted on in relation to Te Hopua a Rangi (Geddes Basin), the Manukau Harbour and other culturally significant sites as well as for NZTA to take into consideration the future Manukau Harbour Treaty of Waitangi settlement claim as a part of the Notice of Requirement.

- 4.2 I submit that NZTA be required to discuss specifically with Te Ākitai Waiohū the effects of the project on Te Hopua a Rangi (Geddes Basin) and the Manukau Harbour to ensure its cultural values are recognised.
- 4.3 I submit that NZTA be required to provide a substantive strategy and plan presented to Te Ākitai Waiohū and other Mana Whenua of Tāmaki Makaurau with an interest in the Manukau Harbour on how the project will make allowances for future Treaty of Waitangi settlement negotiations with the Crown. If NZTA has no such strategy or plan in place to deal with Treaty of Waitangi matters, TAWWTI objects in full to the East West Link project.



Karen Akamiria WILSON

MEMBER OF TE ĀKITAI WAIOHUA WAKA TAUA INCORPORATED