

BEFORE THE TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL

under: the Resource Management Act 1991

in the matter of: Resource consent applications by Remediation
New Zealand for resource consents to discharge
waste material, treated stormwater & leachate,
and to discharge emissions into the air from
composting operations, at State Highway 3 1460
Mokau Road, Uruti ("Applications")

Statement of evidence of **Rawiri John McClutchie** for
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga
(24 March 2021)

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STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF RAWIRI JOHN McCLUTCHIE

- 1 My full name is **Rawiri John McClutchie**.
- 2 I am a current landowner on the banks of the Mimitangiatua awa. I am also tāngata whenua. My whakapapa links me strongly to this rohe.
- 3 My whānau has been living on the awa for generations, before colonisation and of course up to recent times, where we still have a small grazing unit of approximately 48 hectares.
- 4 During my life I have seen the activity in the awa diminish significantly.
- 5 As a child I would spend most of my weekends on the farm, which at the time my grandad farmed with my nana.
- 6 Whenever I stayed at grandad and nanas, grandad would pick me up from school and we would always make our way home to the farm via the Mimi stock route (we called it the old road). This road followed the meandering Mimitangiatua awa. On the way home we would pull over and grandad would tell me to jump over the fence and see if I could see any ika (fish), tuna (eel), Paatiki (flounder), kahawai, and or inanga (white bait), of course there was always something swimming past, if you did not see them you knew they were there because the water would splash as you crashed through the growth on the river's edge.
- 7 Looking back there was also an abundance of manu (bird life) - tui, kereru, shags, ducks, king fisher, there was all sorts, it was a busy place, the awa was alive!
- 8 Grandad would chat away to me talking about the awa, telling me stories of how things were back in his day and how vibrant the awa was and how the iwi and whanau from Uruti to the mouth of the awa would utilise it for spiritual, cultural purposes and to feed the many families on its banks. We would gather food from it to feed our whānau. At the same time grandad would always say that the awa is a living thing like me and you, therefore we had to look after it and nurture it. Only take what we need for the day. Do not disrespect it, look after it and it will look after us for generations.
- 9 I have great memories of playing in the awa, swimming, fishing, with my brothers and cousins, it was a fantastic place.
- 10 We would trawl for Paatiki flounder and Kopuwai (mullet) in the mouth and estuary of the awa (which sadly is no longer there), all of us would go, the whānau, neighbours, and friends.
- 11 Sadly, the awa has not been nurtured, over the past 30 years I have noticed a dramatic decline in the Mauri, in the wairua within and around the awa, there is little if any ora/life, today you do not see the ika, you don't see the manu, the awa is deadly quiet, it is sick.
- 12 As a man with a young family, it distresses me to know my tamariki are not going to enjoy the awa the way I have, they will not create memories

that will bring a smile to their faces when they look back at what they have encountered around our awa.

- 13 With the placing of a Rāhui on the awa, that was the last straw, we should not be stopping our whānau from being able to do what we have been doing for hundreds of years. This operation has forced our hand, it pains me to even think about it.
- 14 It is about time we did something about it, it is not too late.
- 15 We as a community, not only iwi, not only landowners but everyone needs to put their hand up and draw a line in the sand and say 'enough is enough', let's fix this.
- 16 Me personally would be deeply saddened if the resource consent were passed when there is so much wrong.
- 17 I have been to this site. I have no qualifications but even I can see that the practices are frankly sub-standard and in today's political climate this consent would not see the light of day. It is not right.
- 18 Please as a person who deeply cares for this Awa, Mimitangiatua, let's stop this nonsense, today.

Rawiri John McClutchie

24 March 2021