

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")

'Highlights' - Evidence of Anne-Maree McKay for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga

- 1 I am an environmental officer for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga and have worked with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga for two and a half years on their environmental team. Marlene Benson leads our work and we are guided by local kaumātua/kuia.
- 2 I set out in my statement of evidence:
 - a. Ngāti Mutunga Cultural Health Indicators.
 - b. Ngāti Mutunga Mauri Compass Report.
 - c. Ngāti Mutunga Iwi Management Plan assessment.
 - d. Summary of Abatement Notices, Infringement Notices and Prosecutions for Uruti RNZ Site (prepared by Marlene Benson).
- 3 After assessing the applications against our Cultural Health Indicators, Ngāti Mutunga made a decision to oppose the Applications.
- 4 The main concern Ngāti Mutunga have with these Applications is the adverse effects of the discharge on the health of the Haehanga stream, and downstream into the Mimitangiatua River.
- 5 Waters of the Mimitangiatua have spiritual qualities of mauri and wairua. These qualities are related to the physical wellbeing of the water. The health of our awa directly impacts on the health of our people, both spiritually and physically as we are all part of the same ecosystem and whakapapa.
- 6 Discharging wastewater to water, and the mixing of waters from different contaminated environments through discharge activities, can have adverse impact on the mauri of the waterways.
- 7 We also have a concern that the operation of the site, with the stockpiling of a large amount of drilling waste mix (the RNZ 'legacy'), will leave a contaminated site within our rohe.

- 8 During the process of Mauri Compass Reporting, which involved whanau aged from 2 to 70, Ngāti Mutunga members explicitly referenced the RNZ site as an issue. This indicates that the RNZ site is having a direct effect on mauri of the Haehanga Stream and the Mimitangiatua.
- 9 Ngāti Mutunga kaumātua state that they are not comfortable drinking the water downstream from site (even in the Mimitangiatua).
- 10 A rahui was placed on river by Ngati Mutunga in December 2020 because of concerns about this and other stressors on the Mimitangiatua river identified by our Mauri Compass Study.
- 11 My evidence assesses the applications against the Objectives and Policies in our iwi management plan. The following Objective is not met:

Nga Puna Wai Water Quality Objective

To ensure that our drinking water sources within the rohe are clean and safe, kai species are abundant and healthy and our kids can swim in our rivers and streams.

- 12 Policies related to this Objective are not met. The RNZ proposal is contrary to the Objectives and Policies of our Iwi Management Plan.

TE MANA O TE WAI

- 13 The first obligation is to protect the health and well-being of the water. The health and mauri of the water will not be protected by the Applications. The Mimitangiatua is no longer used for mahinga kai or drinking, and we do not consider it safe for children to swim in river - this is partly due to the RNZ activities.
- 14 The second obligation is to provide for essential human health needs, such as drinking water. Ngāti Mutunga members are not happy to drink the water:
- 15 The third obligation is the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being, now and in the future. This is to be provided for if it does not adversely impact the well-being of freshwater.

24 March 2021