

I hereby give notice that a hearing by commissioners will be held on:

Date: Monday 9 November to Friday 11 December 2020
Time: 9.30 a.m.
Meeting Room: Warkworth Town Hall
Venue: 2 Alnwick Street, Warkworth

**SUBMISSIONS ON PLAN CHANGE 42
COMBINED RESOURCE CONSENT AND
PRIVATE PLAN CHANGE 42
1232 STATE HIGHWAY 1, WAYBY VALLEY
WASTE MANAGEMENT NZ LIMITED
VOLUME 4**

COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson Sheena Tepania
Commissioners Alan Watson
David Mead
Wayne Donovan
Michael Parsonson

Sam Otter
SENIOR HEARINGS ADVISOR

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Website: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Note: The reports contained within this document are for consideration and should not be construed as a decision of Council. Should commissioners require further information relating to any reports, please contact the hearings advisor.

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758	1(A)	36	Colin Graham Minton
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From: NotifiedResourceConsentSubmissionOnlineForm@donotreply.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz #413
Sent on: Monday, May 25, 2020 10:30:10 PM
To: CentralRCSubmissions@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
CC: rsignal-ross@tonkintaylor.co.nz
Subject: BUN60339589 [ID:9913] Submission received on notified resource consent
Attachments: LANDFILL SUBMISSION.pdf (63.81 KB)

We have received a submission on the notified resource consent for 1232 State Highway 1, Wayby Valley.

Details of submission

Notified resource consent application details

Property address: 1232 State Highway 1, Wayby Valley

Application number: BUN60339589

Applicant name: Waste Management NZ Limited ('WMNZ')

Applicant email: rsignal-ross@tonkintaylor.co.nz

Application description: To construct and operate a new regional landfill.

Submitter contact details

Full name: Kathryn Hunter

Organisation name:

Contact phone number: 094250378

Email address: kathyhunter.nz@gmail.com

Postal address:

1217 Whangaripo Valley Road
RD2 Wellsford
RD2 Wellsford 0972

Submission details

This submission: opposes the application in whole or in part

Specify the aspects of the application you are submitting on:
Resource Consent and Plan Change.

413.1

What are the reasons for your submission?

The proposal is contrary to sound resource management principles. It is contrary to the purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act 1991, conflicts with National Policy Statements on Freshwater Management; contrary to the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and the Auckland Council Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

What decisions and amendments would you like the council to make?

Decline resource consent and plan change completely.

Are you a trade competitor of the applicant? I am not a trade competitor of the applicant.

Do you want to attend a hearing and speak in support of your submission? Yes

If other people make a similar submission I will consider making a joint case with them at the hearing? Yes

I believe this landfill poses multiple high impact risks to the environment, particularly the Hoteo River and Kaipara Harbour, and to the community.

The site clearly does not align with the Resource Management Act, the Unitary/Regional Plans of the area, and to the Waste Industries own landfill siting criteria.

As witnessed with the Rotorua landfill court case and allegations of leaked discharges due to major weather events and the recent Fox Glacier landfill disaster the placement of this landfill in an unsuitable location is likely to lead to cost ratepayers in the area for the cleanup.

This submission is being made because of an immediate risk to surrounding environments, people and businesses by this proposed landfill. Due to nearby extensive waterways, native and threatened species and ecosystems, and local communities in the proposed landfill area, there is clearly a lack of regard for protecting the land and its people from the far-reaching and long-lasting impacts of landfills by this proposal.

The land includes waterways - tributaries to the Hoteo River which lead into the Kaipara Harbour which is the beginning of the marine food chain, and a significant breeding ground for snapper, oyster and other species. Endangered Maui dolphin feed at the harbour entrance, and Fairy Terns inhabit the area. The forest on the site and neighbouring Department of Conservation reserve contains native and threatened flora and fauna. The land purchased also includes wetlands, flood plain, springs/tomos and a fresh-water aquifer, and a fresh water supply is nearby.

Geology and water systems - The proposed site consists of fractured upthrust sandstone and mudstone layers, topped with reactive clay. The cracking and swelling clay causes gradual ground movement or sudden slips. Water flows carve intermittent underground streams, forming tomos and springs. These streams will often disappear down cracks in the uplifted bedrock thus contributing to the underground aquifers. This combination also results in high risk of slips on the surface.

Weather - The elevated site is exposed to north - north westerly winds, highly localised rain, lightning and thunderstorms. The Dome Valley area experiences high rainfall, normally in the winter months, but also is prone to summer cyclones predominantly from the north east. These high rains cause extreme flood events and large slips in the area, particularly where earthworks such as a landfill site would include.

Related waterways

The Hoteo is the third largest river (second after rain) feeding into the Kaipara Harbour. The river provides water to the local community, farmers and livestock, and is home to many flora and fauna species including the highly endangered seagrasses that surround the rivermouth (Auckland Council, 2014).

The Kaipara Harbour has a coastline which is 3,350km in length making it the largest harbour in the Southern Hemisphere. It is a major contributor to New Zealand's seafood industry as it is the major breeding ground for West Coast snapper. Due to its seagrass habitat it is a nursery and feeding ground for multiple species including snapper, mullet, trevally, sharks, seals, orca, shellfish, and the endangered maui dolphin. The dunes and shoreline are habitat to a range of bird species including endangered birds such as Fairy Terns, Black Stilt, NZ Dotterel, Bittern, Heron, Black Billed Gull, Wrybills and Oystercatchers.

The site includes significant wetland areas which are highly endangered and at risk in New Zealand. They contain important flora and fauna and act as a filter for sedimentation and contaminants.

The area includes flood plains below the proposed site, which regularly flood causing road closures. They are fed by the tributaries from the proposed landfill area and the Hoteo River. Flood events could carry leachates across the flood plain area, impacting agricultural areas and ground water sources.

Springs/tomos spontaneously occur in the area. These could affect the integrity of the landfill liner leading to breaches.

An aquifer / fresh water supply underlies the area's waterway systems and is a potential groundwater source for the Wellsford Water Treatment Plant.

Due to the high rainfall in the area we believe the clay topping to cover daily rubbish would be incapable of performing its job in such wet conditions.

IMPACT ON IMPORTANT NATIVE SPECIES

The proposed landfill site and surrounding area contains many native and/or threatened terrestrial and aquatic species. Such as:

Terrestrial

Trees

Kauri – very endangered and highly threatened currently by kauri dieback spread, taraire, tawa, podocarp, kauri, broadleaf and beech forest

Birds

Tui, kereru, morepork, fantail, silver-eye, swamp harrier, shining cuckoo, welcome swallow, kingfisher, bitterns fairy terns, grey duck - nationally critical

Other

Long-tailed bat - Nationally Vulnerable, Flat-web spider (oldest spider in the world), Giant earthworms, Forest Gecko - Declining Amphibians, Hochstetter frogs – At risk

Aquatic

Freshwater species found in nearby river Waiwhiu, other Hoteo tributaries and the Hoteo River itself include the shortfin eel and longfin eel (declining), inanga, common bully, red fin bully, banded kokopu, freshwater crayfish, freshwater tuna, whitebait.

Marine species

- Seafood stocks - snapper, tarakihi, mullet, multiple shellfish species
- Maui dolphins, orca, major shark nursery, shellfish etc.
- Seagrass - the mouth of the Hoteo River is home to a key seagrass population which could be majorly threatened by the increased sedimentation and leachate distribution from this landfill.

IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY

Soil movement in wind and rainfall once loosened from excavations and daily dirt layers on the landfill and loss of trees holding soils in place could cause change in the colour or visual clarity and significant adverse effects on aquatic life.

Sediments will become more transportable from development and operational processes, spreading it into waterways causing;

- decreased water quality (impacts species and community water supply).
- decreased light (impacting efficiency and ability for photosynthesis).
- negative effects on feeding by fauna (particularly filter feeders).
- cascading effects through the environment and aquatic ecosystems, including vulnerable and threatened wetlands in the area.

Leachates will be generated and transported easily through aquatic systems from discharges from the landfill, particularly during high rainfalls. Leachates are dissolved toxic compounds produced through the landfill process. All landfills are known to release leachates into the soils and surrounding areas despite any riparian plantings both during operation and after closure. These leachates can remain in the soil and mud for many years, and have many adverse impacts on the environment

Leachates from landfills change overtime as well, so the future of the area, particularly the Hoteo River and Kaipara Harbour will be at risk long after the landfill closes as well.

Considering the huge importance of the Kaipara Harbour to our country's internal and exported seafood industry, this is a major concern. Exports of snapper are currently worth \$32 million annually.

Microplastics will be produced through the breakdown of rubbish over time in the landfill (including after closure of operation of the landfill, and after the enforced aftercare period of usually 30 years) and easily spread into the surrounding waterways rendering fresh water unsuitable for consumption by farm animals and causing significant adverse effects on aquatic life. Microplastics are a huge and growing issue globally that travel easily and cause many issues.

Underground freshwater springs – the area is called “Springhill farm” for a reason, and this landfill would likely cause significant adverse effects on the water table via these springs.

Even though modern landfills have improved engineering standards compared to historic landfills, there still remains the ‘unknown event’ to cause a failure. Whether this is due to climate change, environmental events of intense rainfall, earthquake, tsunami, etc., human error, product failure, or changes to site stability, the waste industry themselves cannot guarantee that their liner will never breach.

IMPACT ON PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITY

Any degradation to the natural state of the land will in turn have adverse effects on the morale, health and wellbeing of the local community and people.

Recreation – the area around and areas likely to be impacted by the landfill have many recreational purposes and are commonly used by community groups and clubs, but with the addition of the landfill may become unusable.

Health – there are extensive health risks associated with landfills during operation and once closed which would likely impact our local community. Leachates and rubbish spread through the environment will bring with them bacteria, carcinogens, toxins, an infection substances that will have adverse health impacts on those who come in contact with them, who consume infected flora and fauna or who consume affected seafood or any part of the food chain.

Employment issues – although the landfill development and operation will offer a few jobs, the overall presence of the landfill will cause loss of jobs elsewhere. It is understood that many Redvale landfill employees will relocate and fill most of the job opportunities. Expected job losses elsewhere could include:

- farmers alongside the Hoteo River and Kaipara Harbour.
- local tour operators and accommodation suppliers.
- fisherman who both recreationally and commercially use the harbour as a resource to feed their families.

Nuisances - Odour, noise, dust, vibration, light, visual nuisance (on people and animals), rodents, invasive weeds and species caused by the development and operation of the landfill. Landfill development and operation will involve:

- extensive lighting influencing the environment and reducing our dark sky which are culturally important, a scenic and scientific resource, and are critical for nocturnal species.
- releasing dust into the environment.
- disrupting nearby species and people with loud noises and vibrations.
- producing a bad smell which would spread easily on high winds in the area.
- distasteful views of multiple rubbish trucks (300-500 a day) travelling on our small country roads.
- potential spread of odour neutralising salts/zeolite.
- increased rodent (rats, mice) population, increasing the mustelid population.
- increased seagulls in the area

Agriculture – Many of the families in the area are farmers, and the addition of this landfill to the area could morally degrade their ambition to care and harvest the land and/or have strong impacts on their ability to care and harvest the land by;

- spreading leachates, sediment and rubbish debris onto agricultural lands negatively impacting crops and animals
- degrading water sources (particularly the Hoteo River)

Emergency services – emergency services in the Wellsford and greater area are primarily volunteer services. The addition of 300-500 rubbish trucks to our already dangerous roads, plus the increased fire risk from the methane gases released, volunteer emergency services will be under excessive pressure.

- Increased heavy traffic volumes (300-500 trucks + 150 service vehicles PER DAY)
- Increased risk of accidents/fatals (most fatals already involve trucks)
- Increased fire risk in inaccessible forestry/farmland, and proximity to the main gas line.

Roading – the Wellsford and greater area experience large volumes of trucks such as quarry, logging and cattle trucks, and milk tankers every day which already cause major damage and congestion, and the addition of 300-500 rubbish trucks a day would cause major roading issues.

Wasted previous efforts by community groups – for years, local community groups have been working tirelessly to improve the quality of the area, and educate local community members of the importance of looking after our lands and waterways. These efforts will largely be reversed by the addition of this landfill.

Although the proposal has plans to put money into the community and these types of programmes, the impacts of this landfill will still undo what has previously been done by the following groups:

- Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group (IKHMG) and Trees for Survival have been working on planting and improving the water quality in the wider catchment area and Kaipara Harbour.
- Councils and the government have put public money into this area. Around \$15M contributed to deal with sediment and water quality in Kaipara, \$2M for 5year Hoteo River Healthy Waters project
- Million Metres - planting to protect the Hoteo River.
- Forest Bridge Trust - fencing waterways and planting forest through the CatchIT programme to create a native forest corridor from Kaipara to Pakiri with the goal to reduce vermin and reintroduce Kiwi to the area.

Watercare – Watercare sources some water from the Hoteo River for Wellsford and Te Hana. The water is currently supplied to the community, tourists, and rural tank top-ups by water companies. Flooding may cause back wash of leachates, sediments and rubbish towards the water intakes and source degrading the quality of the water. Considering historic and current water shortage issues, there is the potential that this water resource could be another water supply for Auckland City.

IMPACT ON LOCAL IWI AND HAPU

This proposed landfill is a serious affront to the preservation of the mauri within fresh waterways as well as the physical and spiritual health of iwi, hapu, whanau members and the wider community.

Treaty of Waitangi settlements and the Resource Management Act recognise and state that organisations and individuals have obligations to local iwi / mana whenua when proposing changes or activities which will or may impact the environment.

Local iwi Te Uri o Hau, Ngati Manuhiri, Ngati Rango and Ngati Whatua are guardians of the land, marine and coastal area surrounding the proposed landfill site and encompassing the entire Hotoe River and Kaipara Harbour area. They separately and collectively advocate and support kaitiakitanga and the management and development of natural resources within their statutory areas. Many hapu and whanau groups live beside and rely on the Hotoe River and Kaipara Harbour for their food and recreation.

Wai (Fresh water): Degradation of this natural resource is a major issue because:

- water is seen as sacred because of its purity and life supporting qualities
- water plays an important role from birth to death
- each freshwater system has its own mauri which represents the life force of the resource and the ecological systems which live within that resource.
- the quality of the fresh water entering the harbour directly affects the quality of the marine environment
- like all taonga, water is traditionally conserved and protected
- traditional methods of protection included rahui and tapu

Aukati Rahui: In June 2019, Te Uri o Hau Tribal Council representing fourteen Marae (7,000 people) endorsed the placement of an aukati rahui over the proposed landfill site. This was supported and confirmed at a community meeting of 200 local people. The aukati rahui was placed during a dawn ceremony on 15th June 2019 and witnessed by over 150 people.

To date Auckland Council have ignored the rahui, but they have a legal obligation to recognise and provide for this as confirmed by the Resource Management Act.

From: NotifiedResourceConsentSubmissionOnlineForm@donotreply.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz #414
Sent on: Monday, May 25, 2020 10:45:11 PM
To: CentralRCSubmissions@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
CC: rsignal-ross@tonkintaylor.co.nz
Subject: BUN60339589 [ID:9918] Submission received on notified resource consent
Attachments: LANDFILL SUBMISSION_20200526104413.541.pdf (63.81 KB)

We have received a submission on the notified resource consent for 1232 State Highway 1, Wayby Valley.

Details of submission

Notified resource consent application details

Property address: 1232 State Highway 1, Wayby Valley

Application number: BUN60339589

Applicant name: Waste Management NZ Limited ('WMNZ')

Applicant email: rsignal-ross@tonkintaylor.co.nz

Application description: To construct and operate a new regional landfill.

Submitter contact details

Full name: Christopher Hunter

Organisation name:

Contact phone number: 094250378

Email address: sydney.hunters@gmail.com

Postal address:

1217 Whangaripo Valley Road
RD2 Wellsford
RD2 Wellsford 0972

Submission details

This submission: opposes the application in whole or in part

Specify the aspects of the application you are submitting on:

Resource Consent and Plan Change.

414.1

What are the reasons for your submission?

The proposal is contrary to sound resource management principles; is contrary to the purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act 1991, conflicts with National Policy Statements on Freshwater Management and is contrary to the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and the Auckland Council Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

What decisions and amendments would you like the council to make?

To decline both aspects of the plan completely.

Are you a trade competitor of the applicant? I am not a trade competitor of the applicant.

Do you want to attend a hearing and speak in support of your submission? Yes

If other people make a similar submission I will consider making a joint case with them at the hearing. Yes

Supporting information:

LANDFILL SUBMISSION_20200526104413.541.pdf

I believe this landfill poses multiple high impact risks to the environment, particularly the Hoteo River and Kaipara Harbour, and to the community.

The site clearly does not align with the Resource Management Act, the Unitary/Regional Plans of the area, and to the Waste Industries own landfill siting criteria.

As witnessed with the Rotorua landfill court case and allegations of leaked discharges due to major weather events and the recent Fox Glacier landfill disaster the placement of this landfill in an unsuitable location is likely to lead to cost ratepayers in the area for the cleanup.

This submission is being made because of an immediate risk to surrounding environments, people and businesses by this proposed landfill. Due to nearby extensive waterways, native and threatened species and ecosystems, and local communities in the proposed landfill area, there is clearly a lack of regard for protecting the land and its people from the far-reaching and long-lasting impacts of landfills by this proposal.

The land includes waterways - tributaries to the Hoteo River which lead into the Kaipara Harbour which is the beginning of the marine food chain, and a significant breeding ground for snapper, oyster and other species. Endangered Maui dolphin feed at the harbour entrance, and Fairy Terns inhabit the area. The forest on the site and neighbouring Department of Conservation reserve contains native and threatened flora and fauna. The land purchased also includes wetlands, flood plain, springs/tomos and a fresh-water aquifer, and a fresh water supply is nearby.

Geology and water systems - The proposed site consists of fractured upthrust sandstone and mudstone layers, topped with reactive clay. The cracking and swelling clay causes gradual ground movement or sudden slips. Water flows carve intermittent underground streams, forming tomos and springs. These streams will often disappear down cracks in the uplifted bedrock thus contributing to the underground aquifers. This combination also results in high risk of slips on the surface.

Weather - The elevated site is exposed to north - north westerly winds, highly localised rain, lightning and thunderstorms. The Dome Valley area experiences high rainfall, normally in the winter months, but also is prone to summer cyclones predominantly from the north east. These high rains cause extreme flood events and large slips in the area, particularly where earthworks such as a landfill site would include.

Related waterways

The Hoteo is the third largest river (second after rain) feeding into the Kaipara Harbour. The river provides water to the local community, farmers and livestock, and is home to many flora and fauna species including the highly endangered seagrasses that surround the rivermouth (Auckland Council, 2014).

The Kaipara Harbour has a coastline which is 3,350km in length making it the largest harbour in the Southern Hemisphere. It is a major contributor to New Zealand's seafood industry as it is the major breeding ground for West Coast snapper. Due to its seagrass habitat it is a nursery and feeding ground for multiple species including snapper, mullet, trevally, sharks, seals, orca, shellfish, and the endangered maui dolphin. The dunes and shoreline are habitat to a range of bird species including endangered birds such as Fairy Terns, Black Stilt, NZ Dotterel, Bittern, Heron, Black Billed Gull, Wrybills and Oystercatchers.

The site includes significant wetland areas which are highly endangered and at risk in New Zealand. They contain important flora and fauna and act as a filter for sedimentation and contaminants.

The area includes flood plains below the proposed site, which regularly flood causing road closures. They are fed by the tributaries from the proposed landfill area and the Hoteo River. Flood events could carry leachates across the flood plain area, impacting agricultural areas and ground water sources.

Springs/tomos spontaneously occur in the area. These could affect the integrity of the landfill liner leading to breaches.

An aquifer / fresh water supply underlies the area's waterway systems and is a potential groundwater source for the Wellsford Water Treatment Plant.

Due to the high rainfall in the area we believe the clay topping to cover daily rubbish would be incapable of performing its job in such wet conditions.

IMPACT ON IMPORTANT NATIVE SPECIES

The proposed landfill site and surrounding area contains many native and/or threatened terrestrial and aquatic species. Such as:

Terrestrial

Trees

Kauri – very endangered and highly threatened currently by kauri dieback spread, taraire, tawa, podocarp, kauri, broadleaf and beech forest

Birds

Tui, kereru, morepork, fantail, silver-eye, swamp harrier, shining cuckoo, welcome swallow, kingfisher, bitterns fairy terns, grey duck - nationally critical

Other

Long-tailed bat - Nationally Vulnerable, Flat-web spider (oldest spider in the world), Giant earthworms, Forest Gecko - Declining Amphibians, Hochstetter frogs – At risk

Aquatic

Freshwater species found in nearby river Waiwhiu, other Hoteo tributaries and the Hoteo River itself include the shortfin eel and longfin eel (declining), inanga, common bully, red fin bully, banded kokopu, freshwater crayfish, freshwater tuna, whitebait.

Marine species

- Seafood stocks - snapper, tarakihi, mullet, multiple shellfish species
- Maui dolphins, orca, major shark nursery, shellfish etc.
- Seagrass - the mouth of the Hoteo River is home to a key seagrass population which could be majorly threatened by the increased sedimentation and leachate distribution from this landfill.

IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY

Soil movement in wind and rainfall once loosened from excavations and daily dirt layers on the landfill and loss of trees holding soils in place could cause change in the colour or visual clarity and significant adverse effects on aquatic life.

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Wai (Fresh water): Degradation of this natural resource is a major issue because:

- water is seen as sacred because of its purity and life supporting qualities
- water plays an important role from birth to death
- each freshwater system has its own mauri which represents the life force of the resource and the ecological systems which live within that resource.
- the quality of the fresh water entering the harbour directly affects the quality of the marine environment
- like all taonga, water is traditionally conserved and protected
- traditional methods of protection included rahui and tapu

Aukati Rahui: In June 2019, Te Uri o Hau Tribal Council representing fourteen Marae (7,000 people) endorsed the placement of an aukati rahui over the proposed landfill site. This was supported and confirmed at a community meeting of 200 local people. The aukati rahui was placed during a dawn ceremony on 15th June 2019 and witnessed by over 150 people.

To date Auckland Council have ignored the rahui, but they have a legal obligation to recognise and provide for this as confirmed by the Resource Management Act.



Haranui Marae Trust Board

PO Box 51, Helensville, South Kaipara, 0840. Email: haranuimarae2018@gmail.com

*Ko Tarawera te Maunga
Ko Kaipara te Moana
Ko Haranui te Awa
Ko Ōtakanini Haranui te Marae
Ko Ngā Tai i Turia Ki Te Maro Whara te Whare
Ko Ngāti Whātua te Iwi*

24 May 2020

Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

Tena koutou

Objection to Resource Consent Application: BUN60339589

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1. INTRODUCTION

- a. This objection is being submitted on behalf of the beneficiaries of the Otakanini Haranui Marae, located at Haranui Road, South Kaipara.
- b. This submission is being made because we see immediate and long term risks to the surrounding environments, people and businesses by this proposed landfill. We see a clear lack of regard for protecting the land and our people from the far-reaching and long-lasting impacts of landfills by this proposal.
- c. We believe the landfill poses multiple high impact risks to the environment, particularly the Hoteo River and then to our Kaipara Harbour, to our hapu waterways and to the wider community.

2. OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE KAIPARA HARBOUR

- a. In prehistoric times the thousand-mile coastline of the Kaipara Harbour supported one of the densest populations in New Zealand. Over the first two centuries of the last millenium, many waka associated to Maori settlement of Aotearoa stopped off or called into the Kaipara harbour.
- b. One of the most significant of these waka is Mahuhu-ki-te-tangi, captained by Rongomai who later drowned in the Kaipara¹ - this waka is most closely associated to Ngati Whatua and Ngati Wai. Our traditional history also concerns the waka Kōkirikohara which is linked to us here at Otakanini Haranui.
- c. Our hapu is one that descends from Haumoewarangi, through his son Haki-puta-tomuri, then through his younger son Pokopoko-whiti-te-ra, also known as Pokopoko-here-here-taniwha. Pokopoko was the conqueror of Taniwha and won his name after a battle which took place at Aotea (Shelly Beach), not far from where our marae stands today.
- d. Other of our oral traditions speak of our ancestor

¹ Rāwiri Taonui, 'Ngāti Whātua', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/ngati-whatua/print> (accessed 25 May 2020)

Pokopoko-here-here-taniwha who, once he died, was given a sea-burial at the entrance of Kaipara Harbour, and he later became a taniwha himself, becoming a guardian of our harbour

- e. This korero demonstrates our connectlon, history and genealogical relationship to the Kaipara Harbour, and explains why we are so interested in the health and sustainability of the moana.**

3. THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN WATERWAYS TO US

Maintaining a high quality of our natural water resources is a major issue because:

- a. water is seen as sacred because of its purity and life supporting qualities
- b. water plays an important role from birth to death
- c. Each freshwater system has its own mauri which represents the life force of the resource and the ecological systems which live within that resource.
- d. the quality of the fresh water entering the harbour directly affects the quality of the marine environment
- e. Like all taonga, water is traditionally conserved and protected
- f. This proposed landfill is a serious affront to the preservation of the mauri within fresh waterways as well as the physical and spiritual health of iwi, hapu, whanau members and the wider community

4. OUR CLOSEST WATERWAYS.

- a. At the south end of the harbour, near the town of Parakai, our pa of Otakanini is situated on top of a small island separated from the mainland to the west by some 300 metres of mud-flats (now drained for pasture), and flanked to the south-east by a tidal creek.²
- b. Over the last several centuries, our ancestors have harvested food and

² <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/03036758.1972.10421818>

kaimoana from the Kaipara Harbour and the Kaipara River, for the sustenance of our whanau. **Today, many whanau still regularly harvest kaimoana to put food on their dinner tables and the sustainability of our kaimoana and ika is critical to our well-being.**

- c. Otakanini Pa is renowned in Ngati Whatua history for its ability to resist siege attempts over several centuries, due to being surrounded by the deep tidal creek coming from the Kaipara Moana on one side and swamps on two sides and also being serviced by a fresh water spring³.
- d. **Even today, centuries later, the same spring still supplies the modern marae and households in the Haranui neighbourhood with fresh drinking water, and is managed by a separate Trust, the Haranui Whanau Water Supply Incorporated⁴.**

5. OUR OBJECTION TO RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION

- a. **We are hugely concerned for the viability and sustainability of the local waterways located next to our marae and of our Kaipara Moana that we wish to record our strenuous objection to the above resource consent application to build a new regional landfill in the Dome Valley which is contrary to the purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act 1991, and inconsistent with the Auckland Unitary Plan.**
- b. **We also object to any changes to the Unitary Plan that are proposed to allow this project to go ahead.**
- c. **We absolutely support the wider Ngati Whatua campaign to protect the Kaipara and say NO to the Dome Valley Regional Landfill.**
- d. We believe that the site clearly does not align with the Resource Management Act, the Unitary/Regional Plans of the area, and to the Waste Industries own landfill siting criteria.

415.1

³ <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/periodicals/TPRSNZ1895-28.2.5.1.4>

⁴ <https://www.bizdb.co.nz/company/9429043185061/>

6. THE RISK OF LANDFILLS LEAKING AND BREECHING

- a. The risk of landfills breaching into the Hoteo River and leaking into the Kaipara - We have witnessed the Rotorua landfill court case and allegations of leaked discharges due to major weather events. We were also horrified when we saw the recent Fox Glacier landfill disaster on our TV screens and we became more anxious about the placement of this landfill which is in an unsuitable location is likely to lead to a future disaster and associated clean-up.

7. WATERWAYS ON LAND PURCHASED FOR THIS PROJECT

- a. This land includes tributaries to the Hoteo River which feed into the Kaipara Harbour which is the beginning of the marine food chain, and which is a significant breeding ground for snapper, oyster and other species. Endangered Maui dolphin feed at the harbour entrance, and Fairy Terns inhabit the area. The forest on the site and neighbouring Department of Conservation reserve contains native and threatened flora and fauna. The land purchased also includes wetlands, flood plain, springs/tomos and a fresh-water aquifer, and a fresh water supply is nearby.

8. GEOLOGY AND WATER SYSTEMS

- a. The proposed site consists of fractured upthrust sandstone and mudstone layers, topped with reactive clay. The cracking and swelling clay causes gradual ground movement or sudden slips. Water flows carve intermittent underground streams, forming tomos and springs. These streams will often disappear down cracks in the uplifted bedrock thus contributing to the underground aquifers. This combination also results in high risk of slips on the surface.
- b. Risks caused by Weather - The elevated site is exposed to north - north westerly winds, highly localised rain, lightning and thunderstorms. The Dome Valley area experiences high rainfall, normally in the winter months, but also is prone to summer cyclones predominantly from the north east. These high rains cause extreme flood events and large slips

in the area, particularly where earthworks such as a landfill site would include.

c. We are concerned for the well-being of these impacted waterways

- i. The Hoteo, being the third largest river (second after rain) that feeds into the Kaipara Harbour. The river provides water to the local community, farmers and livestock, and is home to many flora and fauna species including the highly endangered seagrasses that surround the rivermouth (Auckland Council, 2014).
- ii. The Kaipara Harbour has a coastline which is 3,350km in length making it the largest harbour in the Southern Hemisphere. It is a major contributor to New Zealand's seafood industry as it is the major breeding ground for West Coast snapper. Due to its seagrass habitat the Kaipara is a nursery and feeding ground for multiple species including snapper, mullet, trevally, sharks, seals, orca, shellfish, and the endangered maui dolphin. The dunes and shoreline are habitat to a range of bird species including endangered birds such as Fairy Terns, Black Stilt, NZ Dotterel, Bittern, Heron, Black Billed Gull, Wrybills and Oystercatchers.
- iii. The site includes significant wetland areas which are highly endangered and at risk in New Zealand. They contain important flora and fauna and act as a filter for sedimentation and contaminants.
- iv. The area includes flood plains below the proposed site, which regularly flood causing road closures. They are fed by the tributaries from the proposed landfill area and the Hoteo River. Flood events could carry leachates across the flood plain area, impacting agricultural areas and ground water sources.
- v. Springs/tomos spontaneously occur in the area. These could affect the integrity of the landfill liner leading to breaches. We are extremely concerned about the potential for breeches, and

have no assurance that Waste Management will be able to afford all the environment that would reduce the cost to zero.

- vi. An aquifer / fresh water supply underlies the area's waterway systems and is a potential groundwater source for the Wellsford Water Treatment Plant.
- d. Landfill operation - Due to the high rainfall in the area we believe the clay topping to cover daily rubbish would be incapable of performing its job in such wet conditions.
- e. Important species - The proposed landfill site and surrounding area contains many native and/or threatened terrestrial and aquatic species.

9. OUR TAUTOKO TO OTHER HAPU AND IWI AFFECTED BY THIS PROJECT

- a. We tautoko other local iwi Te Uri o Hau, Ngati Manuhiri, Ngati Rango and Ngati Whatua as guardians of the land, marine and coastal area surrounding the proposed landfill site and encompassing the entire Hoteo River and Kaipara Harbour area. They separately and collectively advocate and support kaitiakitanga and the management and development of natural resources within their statutory areas. Many hapu and whanau groups live beside and rely on the Hoteo River and Kaipara Harbour for their food and recreation.
- b. Aukati Rahui: In June 2019, Te Uri o Hau Tribal Council representing fourteen Marae (7,000 people) endorsed the placement of an aukati rahui over the proposed landfill site. This was supported and confirmed at a community meeting of 200 local people. To date Auckland Council have ignored the rahui but they have a legal obligation to recognise and provide for this as confirmed by the Resource Management Act.

10. OUR CONCERN FOR THE IMPACT ON LAND

- a. We are concerned about
 - i. habitat and species loss caused by tree felling and excavations

- causing loss of biodiversity.
- ii. loss of habitat for species as previously listed
 - iii. loss of species directly through removal of species
 - iv. indirectly over time due to loss of habitat, and/or cascading effects through ecosystems
 - v. Increased erosion and sediment movement by wind and rainfall once sediment is loosened from excavations and daily dirt layers on the landfill adversely impacting the environment.
- b. Rubbish distribution is likely throughout the surrounding environment by wind and rainfall with adverse impacts on biodiversity.
 - c. In previous years, it has been possible to see toilet paper and rubbish located in the exposed face of grassed edges, where it meets the shoreline, especially at Taporapora. This has been random rubbish dumped by boaties, fishing trawlers, tourist cruises and shipping vessels. The potential impact on the Kaipara if there was any incident of breaching or leakage cannot be overestimated, especially if the breach were on a scale similar to the Fox Glacier disaster, where rubbish washed up along more than half the coastline of the South Island.
 - d. The potential impact of hazardous materials is too dangerous for us to risk the wellbeing of the Hotoe River and Kaipara Harbour. LFG (landfill gases) such as methane and other gases (including carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide) will be released into the environment from the landfill during operation having adverse impacts on biodiversity, local residents and increasing the fire risk.

11. IMPACT ON THE WATER

- a. Degradation to the natural state of the land will in turn have adverse effects on the aquatic environment/ecosystems. We believe this will occur through a breach of the landfill liner or through normal operations, resulting in:

- i. discharge of a contaminants or water into water
- ii. discharge of a contaminant onto or into land
- iii. the production of conspicuous oil or grease films, scums or foams, or floatable or suspended materials.
- iv. conspicuous change in the colour or visual clarity.
- v. emission of objectionable odour.
- vi. rendering of fresh water unsuitable for consumption by farm animals or people.
- vii. significant adverse effects on aquatic life.

12. SEDIMENTATION

- a. Increased sedimentation caused by soil movement in wind and rainfall once loosened from excavations and daily dirt layers on the landfill and loss of trees holding soils in place, causing change in the colour or visual clarity and significant adverse effects on aquatic life. Sediments will become more transportable from development and operational processes, spreading it into waterways causing increased sedimentation causing:
 - i. decreased water quality (impacts species and community water supply).
 - ii. decreased light (impacting efficiency and ability for photosynthesis).
 - iii. negative effects on feeding by fauna (particularly filter feeders).
 - iv. cascading effects through the environment and aquatic ecosystems, including vulnerable and threatened wetlands in the area.

13. LEACHATES

- a. We are especially concerned for leachates which will be generated and transported easily through aquatic systems from discharges from the landfill, particularly during high rainfalls. Leachates are dissolved toxic compounds produced through the landfill process. All landfills are known to release leachates into the soils and surrounding areas despite any riparian plantings both during operation and after closure. These leachates can remain in the soil and mud for many years, and have many adverse impacts on the environment such as contamination of habitats, causing damage to and loss of species, degradation of water quality and spreading through the food chain.
- b. Leachates from landfills change overtime as well, so the future of the area, particularly the Hoteo River and Kaipara Harbour will be at risk long after the landfill closes as well, which is unacceptable to us. Considering the huge importance of the Kaipara Harbour to our country's internal and exported seafood industry, this is a major concern.
- c. Microplastics will be produced through the breakdown of rubbish over time in the landfill (including after closure of operation of the landfill, and after the enforced aftercare period of usually 30 years) and easily spread into the surrounding waterways rendering fresh water unsuitable for consumption by farm animals and causing significant adverse effects on aquatic life. Microplastics are a huge and growing issue globally that travel easily and cause many issues.

14. UNDERGROUND FRESHWATER SPRINGS

- a. The area purchased is known as "Springhill farm" for a reason, and this landfill would likely cause significant adverse effects on the water table via these springs. Even though modern landfills have improved engineering standards compared to historic landfills, there still remains the 'unknown event' to cause a failure. Whether this is due to climate change, environmental events of intense rainfall, earthquake, tsunami, human error, product failure, or changes to site stability, the waste

industry themselves cannot guarantee that their liner will never breach.

- b. We are particularly concerned for any potential for pollution to our own natural spring, which has given us clean drinking water for centuries.

15. IMPACT ON PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITY

- a. Any degradation to the natural state of the land will in turn have adverse effects on the morale, health and wellbeing of the local community and people.
- b. Recreation – the area around and areas likely to be impacted by the landfill have many recreational purposes and are commonly used by community groups and clubs, but with the addition of the landfill may become unusable.
- c. Health – there are extensive health risks associated with landfills during operation and once closed which would likely impact our local community. Leachates and rubbish spread through the environment will bring with them bacteria, carcinogens, toxins, an infection substances that will have adverse health impacts on those:
 - i. who come in contact with them.
 - ii. who consume infected flora and fauna.
 - iii. who consume affected seafood or any part of the food chain.

16. EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

- a. Although the landfill development and operation will offer a few jobs, the overall presence of the landfill will cause loss of jobs elsewhere. It is understood that many Redvale landfill employees will relocate and fill most of the job opportunities. Expected job losses elsewhere could include:
 - i. farmers alongside the Hoteo River and Kaipara Harbour.
 - ii. local tour operators and accommodation suppliers.

- iii. fisherpeople who recreationally and commercially use the harbour as a resource to feed their families

17. NUISANCES

- a. Odour, noise, dust, vibration, light, visual nuisance (on people and animals), rodents, invasive weeds and species caused by the development and operation of the landfill.
- b. Agriculture – Many of the families in the area are farmers, and the addition of this landfill to the area would morally degrade their ambition to care and harvest the land and have strong impacts on their ability to care and harvest the land.
- c. Emergency services – emergency services in the Wellsford and greater area are primarily volunteer services. The addition of 300-500 rubbish trucks to our already dangerous roads, plus the increased fire risk from the methane gases released volunteer emergency services will be under excessive pressure.
 - i. Increased heavy traffic volumes (300-500 trucks + 150 service vehicles PER DAY)
 - ii. Increased risk of accidents/fatals (most fatals already involve trucks)
 - iii. Increased fire risk in inaccessible forestry/farmland, and proximity to the main gas line.
- d. Roading – the Wellsford and greater area experience large volumes of trucks such as quarry, logging and cattle trucks, and milk tankers every day which already cause major damage and congestion, and the addition of 300-500 rubbish trucks a day would cause major roading issues.

18. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK IGNORED BY COUNCIL

- a. Wasted previous efforts by community groups – for years, local community groups have been working tirelessly to improve the quality of

the area, and educate local community members of the importance of looking after our lands and waterways.

- b. These efforts will largely be reversed by the addition of this landfill.
- c. Although the proposal has plans to put money into the community and these types of programmes, the impacts of this landfill will still undo what has previously been done by the following groups:
 - i. Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group (IKHMG) and
 - ii. Trees for Survival have been working on planting and improving the water quality in the wider catchment area and Kaipara Harbour.
 - iii. Million Metres - planting to protect the Hoteo River.
 - iv. Forest Bridge Trust - fencing waterways and planting forest through the CatchIT programme to create a native forest corridor from Kaipara to Pakiri with the goal to reduce vermin and reintroduce Kiwi to the area.

19. WATERCARE

Watercare sources some water from the Hoteo River for Wellsford and Te Hana. The water is currently supplied to the community, tourists, and rural tank top-ups by water companies. Flooding may cause back wash of leachates, sediments and rubbish towards the water intakes and source degrading the quality of the water

Considering historic and current water shortage issues, there is the potential that this water resource could be another water supply for Auckland City.

20. CLOSING REMARKS

In closing, please note that:

- a. This objection is being submitted on behalf of the beneficiaries of the Otakanini Haranui Marae, located at Haranui Road, South Kaipara.

- b. This submission is being made because we see immediate and long terms risks to the surrounding environments, people and businesses by this proposed landfill. We see a clear lack of regard for protecting the land and our people from the far-reaching and long-lasting impacts of landfills by this proposal.
- c. We believe the landfill poses multiple high impact risks to the environment, particularly the Hoteo River and then to our Kaipara Harbour, to our hapu waterways and to the wider community.
- d. We are hugely concerned for the viability and sustainability of the local waterways located next to our marae and of our Kaipara Moana that we wish to record our strenuous objection to the above resource consent application to build a new regional landfill in the Dome Valley which is contrary to the purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act 1991, and inconsistent with the Auckland Unitary Plan.
- e. We also object to any changes to the Unitary Plan that are proposed to allow this project to go ahead.
- f. We absolutely support the wider Ngati Whatua campaign to protect the Kaipara and say NO to the Dome Valley Regional Landfill.
- g. Please address any response to our email at haranuimarae2018@gmail.com



Te Aniwa Tutara
Signed as Interim Secretary, Otakanini Haranui Marae Trust Board