

From: Nigel Ngahiwi

Date: 7 July 2025

**RE: Opposition to Proposed Remedial Works Impacting Wharekōrino Stream
(APP146952 - IRIS Document No: 87992 - File No: 60 56 12A)**

Tēnā koutou,

I write to strongly oppose the proposed remedial works outlined in the resource consents affecting Wharekōrino Stream, a culturally and spiritually significant tributary of Te Awa o Pūniu. These works pose substantial risks to our taonga wai and directly contravene Te Mana o te Wai and the rights, responsibilities, and kaitiakitanga of mana whenua.

1. Cultural Significance of Wharekōrino Stream

Wharekōrino Stream is a living ancestral waterway, with profound significance to local hapū as a source of identity, spiritual wellbeing, and intergenerational connection. It has long been used for mahinga kai, cleansing rituals, and other tikanga Māori practices. It connects the whenua and the people, and any harm to it reverberates across all aspects of community life.

The stream is a taonga, and its mauri must be protected. Our hapū have engaged in decades of environmental care, including native riparian planting, restoration efforts, and cultural revitalisation projects. These activities honour the obligations of kaitiakitanga and manaakitanga, and Wharekōrino Stream is at the heart of this living relationship.

2. Cultural Impacts of the Proposed Works

The proposed works pose a number of unacceptable cultural impacts:

- **Disruption to the Natural Flow of the Awa:** Earthworks, culvert removals and installations, stream diversions, and discharges risk disrupting the natural flow of the awa and may increase the risk of flooding, both upstream and downstream.
- **Compromising the Mauri of Wharekōrino Stream:** The alteration of the stream's flow, the discharge of stormwater and leachate, and the disturbance of groundwater threaten the spiritual, cultural, and ecological integrity of this taonga.
- **Te Mana o te Wai Violations:** The proposal fails to prioritise the wellbeing of freshwater bodies as required under Te Mana o te Wai. This undermines tikanga-based water governance, kaitiakitanga, and community-led freshwater restoration.
- **Exclusion of Mana Whenua and Decision-Making:** While a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) was completed, we are seriously concerned about the lack of

clear, inclusive mana whenua engagement. The process appears to have been limited to a narrow group selected through the settlement process, excluding many legitimate hapū and whānau with ahi kaa and ancestral ties to the area. This exclusion breaches the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and fails the test of genuine partnership and co-governance.

3. Legal and Policy Failures

The proposed actions contravene:

- **Te Mana o te Wai**, which requires the protection of the mauri of water above all other considerations.
- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi**, through exclusionary consultation processes and failure to uphold partnership, protection, and participation.
- **The Resource Management Act**, which demands recognition of Māori values and active protection of taonga.
- **The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management**, which places cultural wellbeing and tangata whenua values at the forefront of freshwater decisions.

4. Recommendations

We call for:

- The immediate halt of the resource consent process until full and inclusive engagement with all mana whenua has been carried out.
- A revised and transparently co-designed Plan, developed with input from all hapū who hold whakapapa and ahi kaa rights in the area.
- Restoration approaches that are tikanga-based, hapū-led, and consistent with Te Mana o te Wai.
- Recognition of the spiritual and cultural importance of Wharekōrino Stream, not merely its ecological or utilitarian function.

Conclusion

The proposed remedial actions risk permanently damaging a taonga that is essential to the identity and wellbeing of hapū, whānau and future generations. Wharekōrino Stream is not

just a waterway—it is a living ancestor. No action should proceed without the full and meaningful involvement of all mana whenua with a direct connection to this place.

Nāku noa, nā

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