

BEFORE THE WAIPĀ DISTRICT COUNCIL

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of Proposed Plan Change 20 – Airport Northern
Precinct Extension to the Operative Waipā
District Plan

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF NORMAN HILL

CULTURAL

14 March 2023

INTRODUCTION

Qualifications and experience

1. My full name is Norman Peter Sonny Roy Hill. I am a cultural and environmental consultant. My qualifications and experience are set out in my Primary Statement of Evidence dated 28 February 2023.
2. I have co-ordinated and managed the mana whenua engagement process since late-2021 and I was the author of Cultural Impact Assessment (“CIA”) which was appended to the PC20 application.
3. The PC20 site sits within the tribal boundary of Waikato-Tainui who hold the Mana Whakahaere (authority) over its lands and resources, including the Waikato River and its associated natural environs. Ngaati Korokii-Kahukura, Ngaati Hauaa and Ngaati Maahanga are taangata whenua and share mana (power and authority derived from whakapapa, continued occupation, and use) for this area. Ngaa Iwi Toopu o Waipaa (“NITOW”), translated as The Assembled People of Waipā, is a group that represents all hapū in the Waipā District.
4. The CIA which has been prepared for PC20 ensures that the principles, significant values and issues of NITOW and Waikato-Tainui are articulated, acknowledged and understood in response to the land subject to the PC20 application and its subsequent development. Many of the recommendations in the CIA relate to future phases of development that will be facilitated by PC20. I am comfortable that the PC20 proposal adequately addresses the CIA recommendations to the extent that it can.
5. The engagement that has occurred to date (which is ongoing) has resulted in a strong working relationship between TPL/RPL and NITOW which is likely to be formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) or Relationship Agreement¹ in the near future. Waikato-Tainui is supportive of engagement continuing to occur with mana whenua via NITOW.
6. Engagement with mana whenua commenced early in the master planning phase for the Northern Precinct in 2019 and remains ongoing. A total of seven hui have been held to date, including five hui with NITOW and two hui with Waikato-Tainui. Ngaati Korokii-Kahukura, Ngaati Hauaa and Ngaati Maahanga all have representation through NITOW. As foreshadowed my Statement of Evidence there has been a further hui with NITOW

¹ Feedback from NITOW members at the hui on 6 March was that they may prefer for the document to be referred to as a ‘Relationship Agreement’ rather than a ‘Memorandum of Understanding’.

on 6 March 2023. At the 6 March hui the draft MOU was discussed, along with an update on the proposed Bat Habitat Areas (“BHAs”) and acquisition of and plans for the compensation site which adjoins the Waikato River.

7. The CIA which has been prepared for PC20 ensures that the principles, significant values and issues of NITOW and Waikato-Tainui are articulated, acknowledged and understood in response to the land subject to the PC20 application and its subsequent development. The approach and methodology of preparing the CIA included researching cultural and historical information of the area, assessing technical information and masterplans and engagement with NITOW and Waikato-Tainui for review and endorsement of the final CIA. While I was the principal author, the CIA was prepared with considerable input from NITOW and Waikato-Tainui and takes into account the principles, values and issues which are articulated in Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao and Te Rautaki Taamata o Turoa o Hauaa.
8. I consider the engagement that has occurred has led to meaningful consideration of key environmental and cultural values which have been identified by mana whenua. The manner in which consultation has been undertaken is within the spirit of goodwill, partnership and understanding between mana whenua, TPL and RPL and in accordance with the engagement process in Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao.
9. My Primary Statement of Evidence addressed the various cultural effects associated with PC20 and noted mana whenua support with initiatives such as rainwater harvesting and a high standard of treatment of stormwater runoff; retention of the hillock landform where the “hub” is proposed and alignment of roads to enable views of surrounding maunga. I also noted that mana whenua consider that a carefully managed approach is required during construction by adhering to cultural protocols due to the cultural significance of the wider receiving environment and proximity to Nukuhau Paa and other important sites along the Waikato River.
10. Additionally, I noted that the health of ngaa taonga taiao (natural resources) in its entirety (land, water and air) is paramount. The protection of pekapeka (long-tailed bats) is a critical issue for mana whenua. I also commented that the Applicants have given further consideration to habitat protection and enhancement following lodgement of the plan change application. The most recent proposals for habitat protection and enhancement were discussed with NITOW at the 6 March hui. There was general support from NITOW for the proposed BHAs and enhancement of the compensation site.

11. The CIA outlined nine recommendations for avoiding, remedying and mitigating cultural effects. NITOW's and Waikato-Tainui's support for PC20 has been confirmed conditional on the recommendations being agreed to and executed. The series of hui and development of the MOU are aimed at responding to those recommendations.
12. The engagement which has been undertaken by TPL/RPL with mana whenua has been appropriate and consistent with best practice and is ongoing.
13. NITOW's and Waikato-Tainui's support for PC20 has been confirmed conditional on the recommendations in the CIA being agreed to and executed. Addressing the recommendations in the CIA will ensure that PC20 will be aligned with Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato, Tai Tumu Tai Pari Tai Ao and Te Rautaki Taamata o Turoa o Hauaa. Development of a MOU as principal means of addressing the CIA recommendations is well advanced.

Norman Hill
Te Hira Consultants Ltd

14 March 2023