

**ENVIRONMENT COURT OF NEW ZEALAND
WELLINGTON REGISTRY**

**I MUA I TE KOOTI TAIAO O AOTEAROA
TE WHANGANUI-A-TARA**

ENV-2023-WLG-000005

Under the Resource Management Act 1991

In the matter of the direct referral of applications for resource consent and notices of requirement under sections 87G and 198E of the Act for the Ōtaki to North of Levin Project

By Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

**STATEMENT OF REBUTTAL EVIDENCE OF QUENTIN JAMES PARR, ON
BEHALF OF NGATI HIKITANGA, IN SUPPORT OF THE
APPLICATION BY WAKA KOTAHI NEW ZEALAND TRANSPORT AGENCY**

Dated 10 October 2023

BUDDLE FINDLAY

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INTRODUCTION

1. My full name is **Quentin James Parr**.
2. I prepared a statement of evidence (**Evidence**) regarding [topic] for the proposed Ōtaki to North of Levin Project (**Ō2NL Project** or **Project**), dated 4 July 2023.
3. My background is set out in my Evidence. I am speaking today on behalf of Ngāti Hikitanga Hapū.
4. This rebuttal evidence relates to the iwi partner conditions, particularly Muaūpoko Tribal Authority's (**MTA's**) assertion of a "Muaūpoko Contemporary Heartland" through Waka Kotahi's draft Conditions DTW3 a), and Schedule 3, g), h) and i).
5. We wish to express our concern regarding Muaūpoko Tribal Authority's aspirations of establishing a "Muaūpoko Contemporary Heartland" within the Horowhenua Block. While we acknowledge MTA's aspirations, we are deeply troubled by the fact that these aspirations disregard Ngāti Raukawa mana whenua rights and our longstanding relationship with the land.
6. This approach not only undermines the mana whenua status of Ngāti Raukawa hapu as Treaty Partners but also overlooks the historical and ongoing connections of Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga Hapū to the region. Our cultural values, narratives, and aspirations are an integral part of the landscape, and any attempt to superimpose another iwi's narrative on our rohe disregards our unique identity and history.
7. It is our belief that any discussions or decisions related to cultural narratives, values, and aspirations should be collaborative, respectful, and inclusive of all mana whenua iwi and hapū. We are committed to finding a way to work together constructively and preserve the integrity of our respective cultural identities within the region.
8. Additional Concern 2: Protection of Land Held by the Office of Treaty Settlements / Te Arawhiti.
9. Another pressing concern relates to the land held by the Office of Treaty Settlements / Te Arawhiti, which the Ō2NL Project seeks to use. We firmly believe that this land must not be alienated from the Treaty settlements

process. Several hapū, including Ngāti Hikitanga, have longstanding aspirations to acquire land that was confiscated by the Crown in 1874.

10. It is imperative that any decisions or actions regarding land use in the context of the Ō2NL Project do not undermine or hinder the aspirations of hapū who seek to address historical injustices through Treaty settlements. We must ensure that the rights and interests of these hapū are respected and upheld.
11. We are happy to speak directly to the Court on this matter at the hearing.

Quentin James Parr

10 October 2023