

Ngāti Koroki Kahukura



SUBMISSION

WAI ORA/ HEALTHY RIVERS: PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN CHANGE 1

To: Waikato Regional Council

Submission From: Ngāti Koroki Kahukura Trust, Taumata Wiiwii Trust

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Ko Maungatautari te maunga, ko Waikato te awa tupuna,
ko Ngāti Korokī Kahukura mātou; ko Maungatautari, ko Pōhara ngā marae.

Our mountain is Maungatautari; our ancestral river is Waikato; we are Ngāti Korokī
Kahukura and our marae are Maungatautari and Pōhara.

A. General Position of the Trusts on Wai Ora (Healthy Rivers) Proposed Plan Change 1

1. The Trusts that make this collective submission represent approximately 5000 whānau members and generally **support** the submission made by Waikato Tainui on this proposed plan change; and
2. In addition, we assert our right to be recognised as a River Iwi pursuant to the Ngāti Korokī Kahukura Claims Settlement Act 2012.
3. The Trusts **do wish to be heard** in support of this submission.

B. Background

1. The people of **Ngāti Korokī Kahukura** descend from the ancestors of Tainui waka. According to historian, Erik Olsen,

‘...there can be no doubt that the combined impact of confiscation and the Native Land Court stripped from Ngāti Korokī Kahukura the land necessary to sustain their people. The development of European farming, which involved both draining most of the region’s wetlands and the gradual silting of its rivers, compounded the effect, by destroying traditional food sources. The later decision of government to use the Waikato River for generating hydro-electricity only worsened the plight of Ngāti Korokī Kahukura. What had once been a prosperous and flourishing community became a remnant.

One can only salute the courage and ingenuity with which that remnant sustained an on-going presence and more recently set about restoring Ngāti Korokī Kahukura’s mana in their ancestral rohe.’¹

2. The **Ngāti Korokī Kahukura Trust** represents the people of Ngāti Korokī Kahukura on certain social, environmental, economic, political and cultural issues. Together with the Taumata Wīiwī Trust, the Ngāti Korokī Kahukura Trust has been formally mandated by the people of Ngāti Korokī Kahukura to make this submission.

¹ Report on the historical account of the relationship between the Crown and Ngāti Korokī Kahukura by Emeritus Professor Erik Olssen, ONZM, FRSNZ, FNZAH, and PhD (Duke), 15 September 2011

3. Ngāti Koroki Kahukura are included in the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Settlement arrangements through Ngāti Koroki. The Taumata Wiiwii Trust is the entity that was mandated to negotiate and settle the outstanding historical non-raupatu Treaty of Waitangi Claims on behalf of Ngāti Koroki Kahukura. It is the post settlement governance entity that received and now manages settlement assets for and on behalf of Ngāti Koroki Kahukura.
4. The two marae of Ngāti Koroki Kahukura, Maungatautari and Pōhara, are beneficiary marae of Waikato-Tainui and represented on the governing body, Te Whakakitenga o Waikato. Waikato-Tainui has advanced several Treaty claims and produced environmental documents that any of its marae, hapū, and individual members may access and use to support their advancement and development and generally achieve their aspirations of mana motuhake (self-determination). Those settlements, instruments and documents include:
 - The Waikato Raupatu Lands Settlement and the Waikato Raupatu Settlement Act 1995
 - The Waikato River Settlement and the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 (including the Vision and Strategy)
 - Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao – Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan
 - Waikato-Tainui Whakatupuranga 2050 – Strategic Plan
5. Ngāti Koroki Kahukura also has its own settlement legislation, the Ngāti Koroki Kahukura Claims Settlement Act 2012, which acknowledges Ngāti Koroki Kahukura as having “dominant mana whenua” in their tribal area, and recognises Ngāti Koroki Kahukura as a “River Iwi” in our own right:

70 Acknowledgments

The Crown acknowledges—

(a) that Ngāti Koroki Kahukura hold dominant mana whenua, ahi kā roa, mana whakahaere, and kaitiaki status within the homeland rohe of Ngāti Koroki Kahukura, which encompasses—

- (i) the Pukekura, Horahora, and Maungatautari land blocks:
- (ii) the Waikato River within the Karapiro to Lake Arapuni sub-catchment:
- (iii) Maungatautari...

(d) that Ngāti Koroki Kahukura are a river iwi.

6. In addition, both as part of Waikato-Tainui and in our own right, Ngāti Koroki Kahukura have rights and interests according to tikanga and customary law, rights and interests arising from common law (including the common law relating to aboriginal title), and rights and interests under the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.

C. Submission

7. We have read and we support the submission made by Waikato Tainui on this proposed plan change. In addition, we specifically seek to be formally recognised and named in the Waikato Regional Plan and all planning documentation as a River Iwi.