

**BEFORE HEARING COMMISSIONERS
IN TAUPŌ**

UNDER THE Resource Management Act 1991 (“**Act**”)

IN THE MATTER OF Proposed Plan Change 42 Rural Chapter - General Rural Environment and Rural Lifestyle Environment

AND IN THE MATTER OF a submission seeking the rezoning of the site located at 387 Whakaroa Road to Rural Lifestyle Environment and associated relief.

BETWEEN **STEVE HAWKINS**
Submitter

AND **TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Planning authority

**SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF
STEPHANIE LOUISE BLICK**

Before a Hearing Panel: Chairperson David McMahon, Commissioner Liz Burge, and Councillors Yvonne Westerman and Kevin Taylor.

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

1. My full name is Stephanie Louise Blick.
2. This update to my primary statement of evidence addresses in accordance with the Hearing Panel request to provide a brief account of engagement with Mana Whenua and the Department of Conservation (“DOC”).
3. I have structured my response under the following headings:
 - (a) Section 2. Mana Whenua engagement;
 - (b) Section 3. Department of Conservation engagement.

SECTION 2. MANA WHENUA ENGAGEMENT

4. In early 2022, an introduction was made to Matt Andrews, Director of Te Kōhiritanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa via Scott Davenport, a Taupo based planning consultant. As recorded on the Te Kōhiritanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa website¹ -

Te Kōhiritanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa Trust is a forum for all Ngāti Tūwharetoa hapū to come together as equals, to discuss our common goals, and to support each other to reach final settlement. Te Kōhiritanga is the mandated post-settlement representative of Ngāti Tūwharetoa.

Te Kōhiritanga includes 26 Ngāti Tūwharetoa hapū. Each hapū appoints a trustee and an alternate to represent their hapū concerns.

In establishing Te Kōhiritanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa seek to restore the relationships between whānau, hapū and iwi and recognize the importance of hapū- based decision-making. We recognise that there are capacity issues amongst our whānau, hapū and marae. The best way to address those capacity issues is to start the mahi.

5. On 17 February 2022, TOA Architects, the architecture firm engaged to design the proposed accommodation block and to lead Mana Whenua engagement met with Mr Andrews and Ms Gayle Leaf.
6. As outlined in the evidence material of the Submitter, TOA is a Kaupapa Maori architecture firm that values mana whenua involvement and engagement in design.
7. The premise for the hui as set out in correspondence between the parties, was to:

introduce ourselves and then listen and learn about some of mana whenua's thoughts, aspirations, priorities for their rohe.

8. Minutes from this first hui are provided as **Attachment One**.
9. Key actions from this first hui included arranging an introductory meeting between Ms Leaf and Mr Hawkins and confirming the six hapu representatives that would be engaged with.
10. The project went on hold a number of times through 2022, and in early 2023 Mr Hawkins reconnected with Ms Leaf. A hui was held between Ms

¹ <https://www.tekotahitangaotuwaharetoa.co.nz/tekotahitanga/the-organisation/>

Leaf, Mr Andrews, Mr Hawkins and Mr Andrew Cumming on 23 March 2023. At this meeting it was agreed that Ms Leaf would confirm the relevant hapu representatives at the next hapu hui in May 2023.

11. After the May 2023 hui, Ms Leaf confirmed that, given co-management agreements with the Crown that were in place for the adjacent reserve land, engagement with Mana Whenua should be undertaken in conjunction with the Department of Conservation. Ms Leaf recommended that Mr Hawkins engage with the Department of Conservation and then bring both parties together for site visits and hui. We are currently in the process of arranging this.
12. Through a contact provided by Ms Leaf, the *Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve: Biodiversity Assessment and Management Plan* prepared by Nicholas Singers of Ecological Solutions was provided to the project team for review. This has been taken into account in the development.

SECTION 3. DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION ENGAGEMENT

13. Ms Leaf provided the contact details of a DOC staff member in the Taupo office that was her key contact. In early 2023 email and phone correspondence was undertaken with this contact and my details were then passed on to another staff member for follow up. The DOC staff member was invited to attend the meeting between Mr Hawkins, Mr Andrews and Ms Leaf.
14. On 30 March 2023, I received a phone call from another DOC staff member and we discussed setting up a site visit and hui with relevant DOC staff, Ms Leaf and other hapu representatives to be confirmed by Ms Leaf. Proposal information, including the lodge concept and the site-wide concept plan were provided again to this DOC staff member.
15. On the 2 May 2023, however, I received an email from the DOC staff member advising that the request for consultation had to be passed to the DOC RMA team in Hamilton. I was given an email alias to direct my query to. My request for consultation was logged on the 27th of April and, after some follow up (that included reconnecting with the taupo staff member to see if they could chase internally), I received an email from a DOC staff member in the Turangi office advising that they had been sent my request.

16. We had a teams call with four DOC staff members on the 3 August 2023. Staff included a DOC ranger, a senior DOC ranger from the Heritage and Visitors team and the Operations Manager for the Central Plateau. While they advised that all correspondence needs to still be directed through the national office, they were keen to engage with us together with Mana Whenua.
17. We are in the process of arranging a site visit and hui with the turangi staff, Ms Leaf, and other hapu members.

1 September 2023
Stephanie Louise Blick

Attachment One – 17 February 2022 hui notes

Attendees:

- Matt Andrews, Chairperson; Te Hauauru Hapū Collective.
- Gayle Leif, Tūwharetoa Mana Whenua Representative - exact role to be defined.
- Nicholas Dalton, TOA Founding Director / Registered Architect.
- Tracy Davis, TOA Senior Business Development Manager.
- Te Ari Prendergast, TOA Architectural Associate. Te Tuhi Pt Farm Project Design Lead.
- Sam Roberts, TOA Architectural Graduate Designer. Te Tuhi Pt Farm Project Designer.
- Daniel Lewis, TOA Associate Director / Registered Architect. Te Tuhi Pt Farm Project Lead.

Karakia: Tracy

Whakawhanaungatanga: introductions.

Discussion:

1. TOA working on behalf of Steve Hawkins who wants to have iwi involvement in this project.
2. Te Hauauru Hapū Collective from Whakaipō Bay to Kuratau
3. Gayle is clear she would like to read info and speak with developers preferably before meeting with them.
4. Gayle stated that DoC (Department of Conservation) will also need to be involved as part of stakeholder engagement. There is a co-management agreement for the Whakaipō Bay Reserve.
5. Dan introduced the project, defining the Te Tuhi Point Farm site and the intention to create a residential development with a 'lodge' at the southern end.
6. Project not so visible from the Whakaipō Bay other than the Barn.
7. Ecological corridors through site are good. TO be coordinated with the current Environment Plan.
8. Gayle noted that Nicholas Singers (nicholasjdsingers@gmail.com) produced an environmental plan on behalf of iwi for the co-management with DoC of Reserve around to Whangamatā.
9. Huka Lodge type lodge (higher end range) for the 'Lodge' at the south end of the Te Tuhi Pt Farm site.
10. MW prefer Social Development with Economic Development to follow, hapū, whanau focus.
11. Keen to build a proper and lasting relationship.
12. Huge history going back to Tia and Ngātoroirangi.
13. Cultural sites to be discussed in future hui
14. Whole Western Bay hugely significant so how do you protect these sites
15. Masons Rock, Dentistry school taking teeth from urupā.
16. Bike Taupo; mountain bike track, Gayle was involved in the developmen of this track with the key objective being to limit impact so no wāhi tapu are discovered. GPS sites.

17. Pā site in Whakaipō Bay, Te Aokarere Pa by Mine Bay
18. Aspirations for development acknowledge sites of significance, hauora, social development, 3 waters (Regenerative - Ecologically, Socially etc.).
19. Mauri of the whenua to bring the mana of the whenua and tupuna, and connection back for future generations.
20. However a project relates to hauora; some type of 'mirimiri' to rebuild those relationships.
21. Ohomai range area for Ngahere
22. Gayle to do environmental and cultural mapping study for Whakaipo Bay.
23. Our 'front door' is the Lake and the river is the 'backdoor'
24. Our ancestors stood on this land including the site