

Summary of Evidence – Topics 1 and 2

Veronica Baldwin-Smith (cultural expert) on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae, Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

30 October 2023

Tēnā koutou, my name is Veronica Baldwin-Smith and I am Ngāti Waewae.

I am providing an oral summary of my cultural evidence on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae, Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (collectively **Ngāi Tahu**) for the topic 1 and topic 2 hearings for the proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan (**TTPP**).

Rangatiratanga / Mana whenua status

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu is established by the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 to give legal identity to the iwi. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu is the tribal collective of Ngāi Tahu Whānui and are represented by 18 papatipu rūnanga, the regional bodies that represent the views of Ngāi Tahu Whānui. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio are two of the 18 papatipu rūnanga.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae is the mandated representative body for the hapū of Ngāti Waewae, and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio is the mandated representative body for the hapū of Ngāti Māhaki. We are collectively referred to as Poutini Ngāi Tahu.

The entirety of Te Tai o Poutini/the West Coast region is solely within the Takiwā (area) of Poutini Ngāi Tahu. Poutini Ngāi Tahu hold rangatiratanga and mana whenua status of the West Coast/Te Tai o Poutini.

Through the proposed TTPP, the Councils must give effect to Ngāi Tahu rangatiratanga. Our tino rangatiratanga was confirmed in the Treaty of Waitangi and was reconfirmed under the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act and Deed of Settlement.

Partnership on Te Tai o Poutini/the West Coast

On behalf of Poutini Ngāi Tahu, I want to acknowledge the partnership we have with the Councils on Te Tai o Poutini/the West Coast. The relationship between the West Coast Regional Council and Ngāi Tahu was formally recognised in the Mana Whakahono a Rohe agreement.

I also want to acknowledge the collaborative approach taken by the Te Tai o Poutini Committee members in drafting the proposed TTPP in accordance with the Order in Council. On behalf of Poutini Ngāi Tahu, I would like to thank Francois Tumahai and Paul Madgwick who represented us on the TTPP Committee.

Responsibilities / Aspirations

As mana whenua holding rangatiratanga, we exercise our rights and responsibilities within our Takiwā. The ability to manage our natural resources in a sustainable way according to mātauranga and tikanga is an important expression of our rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga.

Kaitiakitanga is fundamental to the relationship between Ngāi Tahu and the environment. As kaitiaki we must protect mauri and pass the environment onto future generations in a state which is as good as, or better than, the current state. To Poutini Ngāi Tahu, kaitiakitanga is not a passive responsibility, it requires an active exercise of responsibility in a manner beneficial to the resource.

The ability for Poutini Ngāi Tahu to exercise rangatiratanga through provisions within the TTPP enables us to uphold and continue the kaitiaki responsibilities passed down to us by our ancestors.

Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei

For us and our children after us