

**BEFORE THE KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE URUHI TO KĀPITI ISLAND GATEWAY PROJECT**

Under the Resource Management Act 1991

In the matter of a resource consent application by Kāpiti Coast District Council under section 88 of the Act, to carry out the Te Uruhi to Kāpiti Island Gateway Project

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF NAOMI TE ORAETI SOLOMON (TE RŪNANGA
Ō TOA RANGATIRA) ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT**

Dated: 19 September 2022

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INTRODUCTION

1. Kō **Naomi Te Oraeti Solomon** tōku ingoa. He uri tenei o Ngāti Toa Rangatira (**Ngāti Toa**). He Pou Toa Matarau ki Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira.
2. My name is Naomi Te Oraeti Solomon. I am from Ngāti Toa. I hold the role of Pou Toa Matarau at Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira (**Rūnanga**).
3. As Pou Toa Matarau, I sit in the Executive Lead Team. I am responsible for Ngāti Toa's contemporary iwi affairs, including cultural, environmental, Treaty, fisheries, and high-level policy and strategic matters.
4. I have been an employee of the Rūnanga since January 2019, and also sat as a Board Member for the Rūnanga from 2006 until 2021.
5. The Rūnanga is the mandated iwi authority for Ngāti Toa. I am authorised to give this evidence on its behalf.
6. In September 2020, in my previous role as General Manager for Treaty and Strategic Relationships, I prepared the Cultural Values Assessment (**CVA**) on behalf of Ngāti Toa, which was included in the resource consent application lodged with Kāpiti Coast District Council (**Council**) for Te Uruhi – Kāpiti Gateway Project (**Project**).
7. However, Ngāti Toa's involvement in and support for the concept of a Kāpiti gateway project dates back much further than September 2020. Ngāti Toa has advocated for a facility like the one proposed, at the site proposed, for well over 20 years, and I discuss the importance of both the Project and the proposed site to Ngāti Toa below in my evidence.
8. Although I am not giving expert evidence in this matter, my strong connection to my iwi and long history with the mahi of the Rūnanga (including in environmental matters), my connections to Kāpiti Island, Paraparaumu Beach and the wider Kāpiti district, and my long-standing close involvement in the Project's development means I am well placed to give this evidence on Ngāti Toa's behalf.
9. In preparing my evidence I have read the application for resource consent and other related materials as they are relevant to my evidence, including re-familiarising myself with Ngāti Toa's CVA.

10. I have also read in draft, and support, the evidence of John Barrett on behalf of Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust (**Ātiawa**).

Purpose and scope of the evidence

11. The CVA identifies Ngāti Toa's cultural values, interests and associations in the Kāpiti area and includes recommendations and proposed conditions in respect of the Project. My evidence does not repeat in detail the matters discussed in the CVA.
12. Rather, its main purpose is to record Ngāti Toa's support of Te Uruhi, which we see as an opportunity to fulfil Ngāti Toa's connection to Kāpiti Island from the mainland, while also maintaining Ngāti Toa's deep relationship with the former pā site of Te Uruhi, where the Project will be located.
13. In my evidence, I briefly summarise:
 - (a) the significance of the Project, including its location and the surrounding area, to Ngāti Toa;
 - (b) Ngāti Toa's partnership relationship with the Council, including through the governance groups that were created as part of the Project's development; and
 - (c) the key findings and recommendations of the CVA, updated to reflect more recent changes to the Project.
14. I also comment briefly on issues raised in submissions, as well as the council officer's section 42A report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

15. The Project's name 'Te Uruhi' was gifted to the Council in acknowledgement of the rich history and deep significance of the site to mana whenua across the rohe.
16. The Te Uruhi Project will play an important role as a visual representation of mana whenua on the Kāpiti Coast, and in particular in Paraparaumu, where we are currently invisible. Ngāti Toa see this Project as an opportunity to become more visible, to tell our stories, and to be seen again at places that are significant to us.
17. The Te Uruhi Project is also important to strengthening the connection between the former pā site of Te Uruhi, and Kāpiti Island.

18. Kāpiti Island is a place of deep and long-standing historical and cultural significance for Ngāti Toa. That history, and the relationship between Ngāti Toa and Kāpiti Island, has also contributed to our long-standing desire to keep the island pest-free. As such, Ngāti Toa is in strong support of the Project's purpose-built biosecurity facilities.
19. I have sat on both of the governance groups that were set up to oversee the Project's design and development. Through the evolution of the governance groups we have seen a really positive change in the relationship between our iwi and the Council, to one of true partnership in respect of the Project.
20. I understand conditions of consent are being proposed that will formalise the partnership relationship, which Ngāti Toa supports.
21. The CVA concludes that the actual and potential adverse effects of the Project on cultural values will generally be able to be mitigated, however it makes a number of recommendations aimed at ensuring Ngāti Toa's ongoing recognition and involvement as the Project progresses. The Council has responded positively to these recommendations.
22. Ngāti Toa has remained closely involved in the development of the Project throughout its lifespan, including through the ongoing governance group meetings. We have been aware of all Project developments, including the carparking changes, and we remain in strong support of the Project going ahead.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE AND SURROUNDING AREA TO NGĀTI TOA

23. The Project's name 'Te Uruhi' was gifted by representatives of Ngāti Toa and Ātiawa to the Council, at a ceremony also attended by representatives of Ngāti Raukawa, in acknowledgement of the rich history and deep significance of the site to mana whenua across the rohe. The Project is named for the land on which it will be located, the former site of Te Uruhi pā.
24. Kāpiti Island is a place of deep and long-standing historical and cultural significance for Ngāti Toa. Our ancestors settled there in the early 19th century, and the island quickly became an important part of Ngāti Toa's culture, economy and day-to-day life.¹
25. That history, and the relationship between Ngāti Toa and Kāpiti Island, is reflected in our Treaty settlement with the Crown. One of the important items

¹ Cultural Values Assessment – Kāpiti Gateway, September 2020, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, p 5.

of redress related to Kāpiti Island in our settlement is the establishment of the Kāpiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee (**KISAC**). One of the major roles for KISAC is to develop a Conservation Management Plan for the island. As such, keeping the island pest-free is an important component to this.

26. Throughout Ngāti Toa's involvement with the Project, a priority for us has been the relationship of the Project to Kāpiti Island given that one of the buildings is primarily to facilitate visitors to Kāpiti Island. The Project's biosecurity benefits are therefore an important component for Ngāti Toa.
27. Te Uruhi will also play an important part in the visual representation of our role as mana whenua in the region where – currently – we are largely invisible. We see this Project as an opportunity to become more visible, to tell our stories, and to be seen again at places that are significant to us.
28. In addition to the island itself, the proposed location of the Project (Maclean Park) is also a site of deep historical and cultural significance to Ngāti Toa, as well as to Ātiawa and Ngāti Raukawa. As mentioned above it is a former pā site (Te Uruhi pā), and was occupied by Ngāti Toa and Ātiawa as they migrated south from 1822.
29. Crucially, the Project site is also located near the coastline, with views of Kāpiti Island. Locating Te Uruhi on land at the beachside – and in particular at Maclean Park – enables us to maintain our connection to the former pā site of Te Uruhi, while also establishing a key connection from the landward side of the Kāpiti Coast to the island. From a practical perspective the location also makes sense, given its proximity to the boat launching area.

PARTNERSHIP WITH COUNCIL

Development of the Maclean Park Reserve Management Plan 2017

30. The Maclean Park Reserve Management Plan 2017 (**Management Plan**) was prepared by the Council in partnership with both Ngāti Toa and Ātiawa. The development of the Management Plan predates my employment with the Rūnanga, however I have read the Management Plan and am familiar with its contents, and its importance in the context of Te Uruhi.

Governance Groups

31. My involvement in the Project's development has largely been through the two governance groups that have existed at different times. I was part of the first governance group that was set up in late 2019 for the purpose of selecting an architect for the Project and reviewing the initial architectural designs. I sat in that first governance group alongside Pania Solomon (also Ngāti Toa), Russell Spratt and Chris Gerretzen of Ātiawa, an independent chair and representatives from the Council and the Department of Conservation.
32. In May 2021, a second governance group was established, superseding the first group. That group – of which I am a member, alongside Mr Spratt, Ms Law, and other Council representatives – is still running.
33. During the 3 November 2021 governance group meeting, which I attended along with Mr Spratt, Ms Law and another Council representative, various Project updates and design topics were discussed. This included an update to the carparking component of the Project. In particular, the group discussed the fact that the golf club parking option was no longer being progressed, and instead additional parking would be added at the southern end of Maclean Park to replace the parks being lost due to the new building.
34. Although I am not always able to attend every meeting, it is important to Ngāti Toa to be involved in the governance group given the significance of the Project to us. I have also noticed a real shift in the way the second governance group has been run, compared with the first one, and in my opinion it better reflects a partnership approach that was envisaged for the Project.
35. Acknowledging it was at an early stage in the Project's development, it is fair to say there were some lessons learned from the first governance group that we took through to the second governance group. In particular, I felt that the way the second group was structured and the general understanding of iwi perspectives was treated more appropriately. It felt more like a true partnership with the Council – we were working together – compared with the first governance group where it felt as though iwi were there in more of a stakeholder role.
36. Through the governance group's evolution, we have seen a really positive change in iwi – Council relationships, and this type of partnership

arrangement is something we would like to see more of, and indeed are working towards, across the rohe.

37. I understand that conditions of consent are being proposed that will formalise the partnership relationship that already exists, including through the governance group, as the Project moves forward. I support such conditions and consider there is strong value in seeing the governance group continuing through a formalised arrangement.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE CULTURAL VALUES ASSESSMENT

38. While I have briefly summarised the significance of the Project site (and surrounding area) to Ngāti Toa above in my evidence, the CVA steps through in further detail Ngāti Toa's connection to, and long-standing relationship with, these areas. This includes the Tikotu Stream, which is listed as a Schedule C site of significance to Ngāti Toa under Greater Wellington Regional Council's proposed Natural Resource Plan, because of its importance in terms of wai māori, wai ora, mahinga kai, kai awa, rongoā, puna raranga and wāhi tūpuna.
39. The CVA also emphasises the important role the Project will play in enabling mana whenua to share their stories, history and tikanga with the people of the Kāpiti Coast district and visitors to the area. Where currently there is very limited expression of local iwi cultural values, the Project will enable these values to flourish, with mana whenua driving the Project forward, together with Council.
40. Notwithstanding the CVA's conclusion that the actual and potential adverse effects of the Project on cultural values will generally be able to be mitigated, it makes a number of recommendations aimed at ensuring Ngāti Toa's ongoing recognition and involvement as the Project progresses. These recommendations relate to:
- (a) commissioning signage and Māori design features commissioned from Ngāti Toa and Ātiawa artists from Ngāti Toa and Ātiawa;
 - (b) observing appropriate tikanga during the Project's development, for example in terms of karakia;
 - (c) recognising broader aspects of Ngāti Toa's partnership relationship with the Council, including Ngāti Toa's economic and social interests;

- (d) liaising with the Kāpiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee as to the potential impacts to the island; and
 - (e) ensuring (including via a consent condition) an Accidental Discovery Protocol is in place for the duration of the work and an iwi monitor is present.
41. The Council has responded positively to these recommendations, and as discussed above is proposing consent conditions that will formalise Ngāti Toa's (and Ātiawa's) ongoing partnership relationship with the Council as the Project moves forward.
42. Ngāti Toa continue to work with Council on this Project as we see it as one of our key priority projects on the Kāpiti Coast.

RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS AND SECTION 42A REPORT

Consultation with mana whenua

43. I note that several submitters have questioned the level of engagement the Council has undertaken with iwi, noting that the CVA (and Ātiawa's Mana Whenua Assessment) were prepared in 2020, prior to the change to the Project's design to incorporate the southern carparking extension. The section 42A author has also invited comment on these submissions.
44. Discussions have taken place between Ngāti Toa and Council on the change to the Project's design to incorporate the southern carparking extension. Parking is identified as an issue in the Maclean Park Management Plan and while this matter has been raised by submitters as part of the Te Uruhi Project, it is our view that this is actually a matter related to the Maclean Park Upgrade. Furthermore, as I understand it, the Maclean Park Management and Development Plan enables extra parking.
45. Parking is not core tenet of the Project from a Ngāti Toa perspective nor is it a particular element that impacts on our support for, or assessment of, the Project. Respectfully, I therefore do not believe it is appropriate or necessary for these submitters to comment on the Council's engagement with mana whenua on this particular matter.
46. As I have explained above, Ngāti Toa has remained closely involved in the development of the Project throughout its lifespan, including through the

ongoing governance group meetings. We have been aware of all Project developments, including the carparking changes.

47. We remain in strong support of the Project going ahead.

Naomi Te Oraeti Solomon

19 September 2022