

**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 JOHN WEBBER BARRETT (ĀTIAWA KI
WHAKARONGOTAI CHARITABLE TRUST) ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT**

Dated: 19 September 2022

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INTRODUCTION

1. My name is **John Webber Barrett**.
2. I affiliate to all the iwi of this place, namely Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Toa, and Ngāti Raukawa. My ancestor was the Chief Te Rangihiroa, who came to Kāpiti in 1820 with Te Rauparaha and the Ngāti Toa migration from Kawhia. My whānau-hapū and Iwi have resided on Kāpiti Island since 1820 to the present day.
3. I am giving this evidence on behalf of Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust, which is the mandated iwi authority for Ātiawa.
4. Te Rangimārie Williams prepared the Mana Whenua Assessment (**MWA**) on behalf of the iwi, which was included with the resource consent application lodged with Kāpiti Coast District Council for Te Uruhi – Kāpiti Gateway Project, and others within Ātiawa have been closely involved in developing the Project with the Council. I have been asked to give this evidence for Ātiawa because of my longstanding role on the environmental advisory committee of the iwi, and because of my strong interest in and support of this kaupapa.
5. Since the early 1990s I have been closely involved in community plans and discussions that have culminated in the present Project, and my whānau history and my personal history with Kāpiti Island and its conservation initiatives go back some considerable time. I still have in my possession a written presentation of the Kāpiti Island Wildlife Trust dated 4 March 1991, describing in some detail a concept for a discovery centre that is very similar to the one now put forward, and highlighting the benefits it will bring for the Paraparaumu Beach area and wider district.
6. I was directly involved in the significant eradication programs which led to Kāpiti being declared predator free in 1999, and have been closely involved with the visitor activities on the island for many years, including currently with Kāpiti Island Nature Tours, through which my whānau and colleagues have hosted many visitors to the island to experience and enjoy the wildlife, flora, spectacular views and the history of Kāpiti.
7. I am not giving expert evidence in this matter but I have considerable experience that is relevant to my evidence, including having been a member of the Wellington Conservation Board, my longstanding involvement through my iwi in resource management and a wide range of Māori development

work, and my foundational and advisory roles in the Kāpiti Marine Reserve Management Committee. I am also a board member of Te Wānanga o Raukawa, the Māori University at Ōtaki. and Chair of Raukawa Whānau Ora – the Raukawa Iwi social services provider.

8. In preparing my evidence I have read the application and other related materials as they are relevant to my evidence, including the MWA for Ātiawa and a number of submissions, and have spoken with my Ātiawa whanaunga who have been closely involved in developing the Project with the Council. I have also read in draft, and support, the evidence of Naomi Solomon of Ngāti Toa.

Purpose and scope of the evidence

9. The purpose of my evidence is to record the strong support of Ātiawa for the Project. The Project has been (and will continue to be) developed by the Council in partnership with iwi. This partnership has been important because the Project is situated in a highly culturally significant location, as explained in the MWA for Ātiawa, and provides the best possible (and a long-awaited) opportunity to celebrate our special association with this place.
10. In my evidence I briefly summarise:
 - (a) Ātiawa's partnership relationship with the Council (including in creating the Maclean Park Reserve Management Plan 2017 and in developing the Project);
 - (b) the importance of the Project's location and the surrounding area to Ātiawa, and the key findings and recommendations of the MWA, updated to take into account more recent changes to the Project; and
 - (c) the ways in which Ātiawa will continue to play a central role in shaping Te Uruhi.
11. I also comment briefly on issues raised in submissions that are relevant to Ātiawa (referred to also in the section 42A report).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

12. From the perspective of our iwi, the Project is the best possible opportunity to create a footprint in the whenua at Te Uruhi that celebrates the associations of Ātiawa, as well as Ngāti Toa and Ngāti Raukawa, with this very significant place, and its role as a gateway to Kāpiti. In doing so, Te Uruhi will become

a great asset for the district and its communities as a centre for information about the natural environment and conservation, as well as historical and cultural matters, and play an important role in terms of biosecurity controls and tourism to the island and around the district.

13. The Council has developed the Project in partnership with iwi and will continue to do so, which is commendable (and a significant improvement on the way things used to be done). This has allowed the Project to be designed in a way that is sensitive to the environment, and will mean that mātauranga Māori and our values will continue to be reflected in Te Uruhi as it is developed. The current arrangements through which iwi participate in the governance of the Project will be continued and formalised through consent conditions that are being put forward by the Council (in partnership/collaboration with Iwi), and the conditions will provide other opportunities for iwi representatives to contribute to the design of Project elements and the information to be conveyed through Te Uruhi.

PARTNERSHIP WITH COUNCIL

14. A really positive feature of this Project is the way in which the Council has worked closely with iwi, including Ātiawa, to plan for use of the Maclean Park reserve area and to develop Te Uruhi.
15. To my mind this is a significant change to how things used to be. In my 30 years' experience working for Iwi to develop good productive relationships with local government, the current period, the last 5-10 years, seems to be embracing a partnership approach. There are now strong working relationships in place, and a demonstrable application of goodwill (going both ways) between the Council and iwi.
16. Ātiawa was closely involved with Council in developing the Maclean Park Reserve Management Plan 2017, which can be seen from the document itself. The Park is a prominent piece of land in the district, as well as an important site for the iwi, so Ātiawa considered it important to guide the formation of that Plan. I personally had some involvement in that process, in particular the discussions around the possible biosecurity arrangements and the landing area for boats.
17. After that, the Project started being developed in earnest, and iwi gifted the name Te Uruhi to it, commemorating the pā that was historically in this location.

18. From the beginning, the Council has worked closely with iwi through the formation of a governance group involving representatives of Ātiawa, Ngāti Toa, and the Council. The governance group has been instrumental in shaping the Project, including by giving direction on how the Council should work with mana whenua, providing feedback on design issues, helping identify an appropriate artist (Chris Gerretzen, Pukenga Matua from Te Wānanga o Raukawa) who will develop the whakairo elements, and guiding the approach to mana whenua story-telling at Te Uruhi.
19. This partnership will continue as the Project is delivered, and the Council is now proposing conditions to this effect.

EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT ON ĀTIAWA VALUES

20. The MWA records the special significance of the area where Te Uruhi is proposed, and the surrounding coastal area, to Ātiawa.
21. While this significance has made it important to design the Project well and with the guidance of iwi, I would add that this location also adds to the specialness of Te Uruhi as a Project. Nowhere else in the district is there a place where all three iwi, Ātiawa, Ngāti Toa, and Ngāti Raukawa, can recount their tribal stories, and nowhere is it more appropriate to do so than at this location on Paraparaumu Beach, directly in front of the island that features so prominently in those histories.
22. The MWA describes various aspects of te ao Māori that are important considerations in developing a Project in an environment as significant as this, and makes a number of recommendations for how the Project should continue to be developed. The Council has responded positively to the recommendations that relate specifically to this consent, including in terms of:
 - (a) adopting Ātiawa's Accidental Discovery Protocol and having an Ātiawa monitor on site when earthworks are undertaken;
 - (b) monitoring of the impact of the Project from a mātauranga Māori perspective;
 - (c) ensuring that artistic representations are designed in conjunction with Ātiawa artists and experts; and

- (d) more generally, continuing to be guided by Ātiawa throughout the detailed design phase, to determine how some of the proposed ideas can be incorporated.
23. The Council is now proposing conditions of consent that will formalise the ongoing involvement of Ātiawa as the Project is delivered.
24. As well as these important ways in which Ātiawa values will be reflected in the Project, and effects will be mitigated, I wish to highlight what I consider are important benefits that the Project will bring about for Ātiawa and the communities in the district more generally.
25. I have already noted the golden opportunity for Ātiawa to be integrally involved in a kaupapa that creates a great asset for the district and its communities, provides an important centre for information about Ātiawa and other iwi with interests in the area, and promotes environmental and conservation goals.
26. As a high-quality, purpose-built facility, Te Uruhi will also play an important role in managing biosecurity risks to Kāpiti Island. My whānau and others of Ātiawa have worked extremely hard to create and maintain a pest-free environment there, which is critically important to us and to conservation-minded people throughout Aotearoa. Te Uruhi will raise the effectiveness and efficiency of the biosecurity support work to a higher level, appropriate to the importance of the Taonga-Kāpiti motu.

RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS AND SECTION 42A REPORT

Consultation with mana whenua

27. I acknowledge those submitters who have challenged the Council to work closely with iwi on Te Uruhi. They have pointed out that the Ātiawa MWA pre-dated a change to the Project layout, which added a carpark area in the southern part of Maclean Park.
28. I can give those submitters (and the section 42A report author) comfort that the Council has been working properly in partnership in Ātiawa. That change in the Project was discussed with and endorsed by the governance group I referred to above, which includes Ātiawa representation.

John Webber Barrett

19 September 2022