

Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki statement to the KCDC PC2 DP Hearings Panel

27 April 2023

NHoO stand strongly by our recommendation to maintain an Otaki Takiwa that includes all of the Otaki township and our rohe (from Pukehou in the North to Kukulauaki in the South). for the following reasons:

- Otaki township is situated next to the Otaki River that is fed by numerous tributaries in the Otaki Gorge and from the Tararua Mountain Range. With climate change predictions of sea level rise, increased precipitation, and more extreme weather events we urge KCDC and the Hearing Panel to take a precautionary approach. Combined with Global, National and Local experiences we should be preventing further loss to properties and lives in this district. We wish to avoid a red alert situation.
- Otaki township sits on an alluvial riverbed floodplain that consists largely of coastal sand and peat that is currently experiencing high ground water levels and impacts on our current infrastructure. Our whanau and friends at the Otaki Beach and Otaki Town are experiencing waterlogged yards, ponding that remains in areas for a number of days, as well as basins and toilets that are slow to drain. These experiences are being noticed as far inland as the corner of Waerenga Road and Domain Road. That is what we are aware of to date. The Te Horo beach community experienced large flooding last year and our whanau have also notified us of ponding for days around Katihiku Marae (on the South Bank of the Otaki River).
- Kapiti Coast consists of numerous historic wetlands and springs that were drained and constrained to stormwater courses. Further major intensification that is proposed will increase surfaces areas that are impermeable and thus put significant pressure on stormwater infrastructure and undeveloped areas. Groundwater cannot be constrained as we have done to rivers and streams so it is highly likely as freshwater makes its way from the mountains to the sea we will see the return of historic wetlands in particular.
- KCDC has acknowledged that there is not sufficient infrastructure for the enabled intensification but anticipates it will be in place, in due time. Some of the infrastructure is out of the control of KCDC and therefore cannot be guaranteed to be in place when needed. We have been advised that we are already on a fine line. NHoO regards this approach as irresponsible.
- The KCDC Community-led Adaptation project - Takutai Kapiti leading climate experts determined coastal margin Adaptation Areas based on the affects of predicted sea level rise, coastal erosion, coastal inundation, and underground seawater intrusion.
- These are our ancestral lands many of which were lost through colonisation mechanisms that marginalised our people. We are currently going through a historic Treaty of Waitangi settlement processes that is nearing conclusion. Our Inquiry District is one of the last in New Zealand to be settled for historic claims. A huge amount of evidence over a number of years has been collated and provided by our whanau, hapu, iwi and independent researchers in Korero Tuku Iho hearings, research reports and expert hearings (see examples in Appendix 2). Intensification although prescribed by the

Central Government is now being enacted by KCDC and if it proceeds as the proposed plan change indicates will limit the lands available to be returned through the historic treaty settlement process, once again causing further distress to our people and inequalities to our settlement opportunities.

The proposed changes are ignoring our kaitiaki role for our taonga and contravening the parts of the legislation and policies that provide a role for mana whenua to participate and to protect our taonga.

NHoO call for an urgent and critical pause on further intensification plans for our district and rohe. This could be achieved by way of an infrastructure qualifying matter as submitted.

As mana whenua we request the opportunity and resources to work with KCDC on adaptation and cultural design elements to future plans and guides of intensification and adequate infrastructure.

Ngā mihi o te wā
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