

## **Comment to the Kaimai Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Expert Panel**

### **Fast-track Approvals Act 2025**

**From: Kaituna Rafting LTD (Trading as Kaituna Cascades)**

**Re: Manawa Energy Limited – Application for Re-consenting of the Kaimai Hydro-Electric Power Scheme**

### **Support for Inclusion of Recreational Releases (Part B.04 - Appendix E, Clauses 9.6 and 9.7)**

I am writing on behalf of the Kaituna Cascades to express our strong support for the inclusion of Recreational Releases, as outlined in clauses 9.6 and 9.7 of B.04 – Appendix E – Proposed Consent Conditions, within the re-consenting of the Kaimai Hydro-Electric Power Scheme.

We are a Rotorua based whitewater rafting company operating out of Okere Falls. We raft the Kaituna River every day, but once a week during the summer season on one of the consented 26 release days we get to pack up and head over to the Wairoa river.

The Wairoa river is an amazing piece of whitewater and is renowned New Zealand wide & even globally as one of the premier hard grade 5 rafting runs. We take pleasure in showing our Manuhiri or guests down this amazing stretch of river. It offers us a point of difference from other operators in the area & also provides New Zealand tourism with another option for amazing experiences attracting people to our region.

The Wairoa is also the only rafting available in the Tauranga region, and is a major draw card for whitewater enthusiasts. We love seeing all the locals swimming and sunbathing on the banks and in the lower water holes of the river as we cruise past as well. The river is an asset to the region and status should remain the same.

It's very important to our staff and business as it allows us to train all of our raft guides to the highest levels of raft guiding standards in the world. This means our health and safety is greatly improved on the other rivers we raft due to the caliber of guide you need for the Wairoa. Each Sunday in the summer the guides all look forward to rafting the unique and mighty Wairoa river.

The Wairoa river and its flow releases are essential to Bay of Plenty local tourism and local culture, and has been for decades!

I have been commercially rafting the Wairoa for 25+ years and recreationally kayaking for 30+ years & has created the person I am today. Both business wise and personally.

**For these reasons, Kaituna Cascades strongly supports the retention of clauses 9.6 and 9.7 in the proposed consent conditions. We respectfully request that the Expert Panel ensure**

**These provisions remain in place to safeguard the future of recreation on the Wairoa River.**

**Thanks for your time and consideration.**

**Peter Lodge**

**Managing Director**

**Kaituna Cascades**

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