

EPA Taranaki Resource Consent Hui, Karley Hemopo from Āraukūkū hapū 23/10/2025

E te kaiwhakahuihui, e te kaiaromatawai me ngā kaihāpai, e aku rangatira, tēnā rā koutou katoa.

Ko Taranaki tōku tauheke

Ko Waingongoro te awa

Ko Ketemarae te pā

Ko Ngārongo te marae

Ko Aotea te waka

Ko Āraukūkū te hapū

Ko Ngāruahine rāua ko Ngāti Ruanui ngā iwi.

Ahakoa ngā ture i raro i te Whakaaetanga Whakataunga a te Karauna i whakawehewehe ai i a Āraukūkū ki ōna tika ki ngā rawa o te takutai moana, mā tō mātou tikanga mō mātou e arahī. Ahakoa ngā ture a te Karauna i whakapōrearea nei i ngā kōrero tuku iho a ngā tūpuna, i ā tātou tikanga, i ō tātou kawa, ka hāpai tonu a Āraukūkū ki tāna i mōhio nei e tika ana, e pono ana. Ko ngā kāwai whakapapa ki runga, kei runga, ko te muru me te raupatu kei raro. Koianeī ngā oati a Āraukūkū.

Ka kore rawa a Āraukūkū e tuku i tōna tino rangatiratanga. Ka kore rawa a Āraukūkū e tuku i tōna mana motuhake. Ka kore rawa a Āraukūkū e tuku i ōna tika ki tōna whenua, ki tōna moana. Ka kore rawa a Āraukūkū e tuku i ōna tika hei kaitiaki i te taiao hei oranga tonutanga mō tōna whānau, mō tōna hapū, me ngā mokopuna haere ake nei.

Ka tautoko a Āraukūkū i ngā whakatakotoranga i ngā kōrero a ngā hapū o Ngāruahine, i ngā hapū o Ngāti Ruanui, nō reira, kei te whakahē, kei te whakahē a Āraukūkū i te tāpaetanga a TTR. E mōhio whānuitia ana ka rawekehia te whenua, ka rawekehia te mauri. Ka rawekehia te moana, ka rawekehia te mauri. He mauri tō te tangata, he mauri tō te whenua. Ko au te whenua, ko te whenua ko au. Ko au te awa, ko te awa ko au. Ko au te moana, ko te moana ko au. Mai i tōku tauheke, tō tātou tauheke i tū mai rā, e rere mai ngā awa ki Tangaroa. Ko Āraukūkū ki uta, ko Āraukūkū ki tai.

Ki a Ranginui e tū iho nei, ki a Papatūānuku e takoto nei, tūturu whakamaui kia tina! Tina! Haumi ē! Hui ē! Tāiki ē!

Tēnā rā koutou katoa

I pay my respects to the adjudicating Chairman and supporting panel members, and I acknowledge you all.

Taranaki is my ancestor

Waingongoro is my river

Ketemarae is my community

Ngārongo is my ancestral meeting place

Aotea is my ancestral vessel

Āraukūkū is my tribal collective

Ngāruahine and Ngāti Ruanui are my tribal confederations

Despite the laws stemming from the Crown's Deed of Settlement which separated Āraukūkū from their rights to the resources of the foreshore and seabed, we are guided by our customary practices.

Despite the Crown's laws which interfere with ancestral narratives, as well as with our customary practices, and with community gathering practices, Āraukūkū still upholds those things that they believe to be right and proper. We uphold genealogical connections, whilst downplaying the plunder and confiscation. These are Āraukūkū's guarantees.

Āraukūkū will never relinquish their sovereignty. Āraukūkū will never relinquish their autonomy. Āraukūkū will never relinquish their rights to their land, and to their ocean. Āraukūkū will never relinquish their rights to be environmental guardians to sustain their family collective, their tribal collective, and their grandchildren into the future.

Āraukūkū supports the submissions of the tribal collectives from Ngāruahine and Ngāti Ruanu, and so Āraukūkū objects to TTR's proposal. It is widely understood that interfering with the land, affects its vitality. Interfering with the ocean, affects its vitality. Land has vitality in the same way that humans do. I am a manifestation of the land. I am a manifestation of the river. I am a manifestation of the ocean. From our shared ancestor standing over there, the rivers flow towards Tangaroa. Āraukūkū is located inland, and Āraukūkū is also coastal.

To Ranginui standing above us and to Papatūānuku laying below us, let us join together in achieving our aims, and let's bring them to fruition.

I acknowledge you all