Fast Track Panel, for the Taranaki VTM Project

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Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Response to Minute 14

Mai Tangaroa ki Tawhiti pamamao, Hawaiki pamamao

Tawhitiroa, Hawaikiroa, Tawhitinui, Hawaikinui, Aotearoa

E tū, e tū ki uta

E tū, e tū ki tai

Tae noa ki te ngutu awa o Waingongoro ki Taungatara

Piki ake ki te tihi o Maunga Taranaki

Huri noa ki te Tonga

Haere tonu ki te awa o Waingongoro, o Ngāruahine, Ngāruahinerangi[1]

The following comments are derived from the Ngāruahine Deed of Settlement (2014)[2] and the Te Uru Taiao o Ngāruahine Taiao Plan[3].

1. Information to be provided by all recipients of this RFI Provide information about benthic habitats and associated species in the area shown in Figure 1, including:

1. Location(s) of the habitat(s)

Coastal Marine Area

[1] https://ngaurahine.iwi.nz

[2] https://irp.cdn-website.com/9b6bde97/files/uploaded/Te-20Uru-20Taiao-20o-20Ngaruahine.pdf

[3] irp.cdn-website.com/9b6bde97/files/uploaded/Te-20Uru-20Taiao-20o-20Ngaruahine.pdf

The area shown in figure 1 encompasses marine environments within the takutai moana and extended marine area that forms part of the Ngāruahine Kaitiaki Area.

- Ngāruahine Coastal Marine Area (deed plan OTS-023-56)
- Extends from Taungatara Stream mouth (west) to Taungatara River mouth (east)
- The rohe extends from the moana (sea) to Maunga Taranaki (mountain)
- Para 5.31(s): Settlement legislation provides statutory acknowledgement for the "Ngaruahine Coastal Marine Area"
- Para 5.21: Crown acknowledges Ngāruahine as kaitiaki over "their area of interest and the adjacent coastal marine area (kaitiaki area)"

Tauranga Waka (Traditional Canoe Landing/Fishing Sites)

Deed of Settlement Para 2.93 - Ten Reserves returned to Ngāruahine:

- Te Rangatapu – Set aside as "Native Reserve for a burial ground, fishing ground and as a place of historical interest"
- Te Kawau
- Inaha
- Orangituapeka
- Motumate
- Waiohata
- Otamare
- Ahikuku
- Ohounuku
- Otumatua

Deed Para 2.93:

"The Second West Coast Commission returned only three marae reserves (at Mawhitiwhiti, Hokorima, Weriweri) and ten tauranga waka, together totalling less than 300 acres, in trust to Ngāruahine as an iwi or its hapū. These tauranga waka reserves, mostly located near the sites of coastal kainga, were set aside by Order in Council for a number of defined purposes, including fishing grounds."

Deed Para 2.94 - Current Significance:

"Apart from marae, these tauranga waka reserves are the only Ngāruahine lands still held by Ngāruahine as an iwi. While Ngāruahine have not had the resources to develop

these lands in any ways, they continue to be of great significance to the iwi, and remain in constant use."

Additional Reserve (Deed Para 2.93)

- Pukeoha - Ngāruahine believe this reserve was inadvertently sold by the Crown

These are part of the takutai moana that makes up our Ngāruahine rohe moana, as is referenced in our Deed of Settlement

River and Stream Systems (Freshwater Benthic Habitats)

Cultural Significance (Deed Para 1.25 - Ngāti Tamaahuroa-Titahi):

"The various awa that are located within the takiwā of Ngāruahine have great spiritual importance and are 'the blood and veins of the takutaimoana, each of them with a story to tell'. The wai that flows through these awa symbolises the link between the past and the present."

Major Rivers (with tributaries):

- Waingongoro River – OTS-023-33
- Patea River – OTS-023-28
- Manganui River – OTS-023-20

Major Streams (30+ named systems with tributaries):
Taungatara Stream – OTS-023-32
Raoa Stream – OTS-023-30
Otakeho Stream – OTS-023-25
Oeo Stream – OTS-023-23
Kaupokonui Stream – OTS-023-19
Kapuni Stream – OTS-023-37
Mangatawa Stream – OTS-023-21
Punehu Stream – OTS-023-29
Taikatu Stream – OTS-023-31
Awatuna Stream – OTS-023-18
Mangawhero Stream – OTS-023-22
Omiti Stream – OTS-023-24
Ouri Stream – OTS-023-26
Paetahi Stream – OTS-023-27
Waipaepaenui Stream – OTS-023-34

Inaha Stream – OTS-023-35
Kahouri STream – OTS-023-36
Konini Stream – OTS-023-38
Mangarangi Stream – OTS-023-39
Mangatoki Stream – OTS-023-40
Mangatoromiro Stream – OTS-023-41
Motumate Stream – OTS-023-42
Opuhi Stream – OTS-023-43
Piakau Stream – OTS-023-44
Tawhiti Stream – OTS-023-45
Te Popo Stream – OTS-023-46
Tuikonga Stream – OTS-023-47
Wahamoko Stream – OTS-023-48
Waihi Stream (Hawera) - OTS-023-49
Waihi Stream (Oeo) - OTS-023-50
Waikaretu Stream – OTS-023-51
Waimate Stream – OTS-023-52
Waiokura Stream – OTS-023-53
Waipaepaeiti Stream – OTS-023-54
Waipuku Stream – OTS-023-55

Marginal Strips (Crown land adjacent to waterways)

Conservation Areas with Benthic Habitat Significance:

Kapuni Stream-Ohawe Marginal Strip – OTS-023-06
Kaupokonui Stream Marginal Strip – OTS-023-12
Kaupokonui-Manaia Marginal Strip – OTS-023-07
Mangawhero Stream Marginal Strip – OTS-023-13
Oeo-Kaupokonui Marginal Strip – OTS-023-09
Ohawe-Hawera Marginal Strip – OTS-023-10
Ouri Stream Marginal Strip – OTS-023-14
Waingongoro River No 1 Marginal Strip – OTS-023-15
Waingongoro River No 2 Marginal Strip – OTS-023-16
Waingongoro River No 4 Marginal Strip – OTS-023-11
Waingongoro Stream Marginal Strip – OTS-023-17

Conservation Reserves

Kaupokonui-a-Turi (Kaupokonui Recreation Reserve) - OTS-023-08

Benthic Habitat Types

Substrate Classification

Sandy Substrates

- Important for flatfish, rays, and burrowing species
- Pipi, tuatua habitat
- Spawning areas for various fish species

Muddy Substrates

- Support diverse invertebrate communities
- Tuangi/cockle habitat
- Important for wading birds

Mixed Sediment Areas

- Transition zones with high biodiversity
- Multiple species assemblages
- Ecologically productive

Rocky Outcrops and Reef Systems

- **Critical habitat structure (specific locations withheld for protection)**
- Pāua, kuku, kina habitat
- Fish shelter and feeding areas
- Biodiversity hotspots

Gravel Beds

- Spawning areas for various fish species
- Important for salmonid-type species

Depth Zones

Shallow Coastal Waters (<30m)

- High productivity nursery areas
- Primary mahinga kai zones
- High biodiversity

Mid-Depth Shelf (30-100m)

- Diverse fish and invertebrate habitat
- Commercial fishing grounds

- Less accessible to customary fishing

Deeper Shelf Areas (>100m)

- Less known but historically fished
- Requires scientific survey
- Potential deep-sea communities

Cultural Geography – Interconnected Living System

Te Uru Taiao o Ngāruahine Perspective

"For Ngāruahine, the marine environment is not compartmentalised by depth or substrate type but understood as an interconnected living system".

Key Concepts:

Takutaimoana

- Includes all coastal and marine areas connected to Ngāruahine ancestral lands
- Not limited to specific coordinates or boundaries
- Encompasses the living relationship between land and sea

Mana Moana (Te Uru Taiao)

- Ngāruahine authority extends over all mātaitai, tauranga waka, moana, and takutai within takiwā
- Each Hapū holds authority, mandate, and decision-making power
- This is exercise of rangatiratanga, not merely consultation rights

Connection of Awa to Takutaimoana (Deed Para 1.25)

- Rivers are "the blood and veins of the takutaimoana"
- Each awa has "a story to tell"
- Wai (water) symbolizes link between past and present

Specific locations withheld for cultural protection

For protection of wāhi tapū and cultural integrity, Ngāruahine does NOT disclose precise locations of:

- Traditional fishing grounds (mahinga kai)
- Mātaitai of particular cultural significance

- Specific tauranga waka coordinates
- Areas associated with wāhi tapu or cultural narratives
- Spawning aggregation sites known through mātauranga
- Rocky reef systems and biogenic features

Note: These sites may be discussed in confidence with the Panel subject to appropriate confidentiality protocols and protection of mātauranga Māori.

Historical Context – Loss of access

Deed Para 2.28 - Confiscation Impact:

"Over 145,000 acres out of the approximately 172,000 acres Ngāruahine rohe was retained by the Crown and on-sold to settlers, depriving Ngāruahine of access to significant wāhi tapū, food-gathering areas, and other culturally significant sites."

Result:

- Only less than 300 acres returned as tauranga waka reserves (10 sites)
- Less than 5% of reserved land remains in Māori freehold ownership (Deed para 2.120)
- Approximately 50,000 acres under perpetual leasing system
- Only quarter of all Ngāruahine people continue to live in Taranaki region (Deed para 2.128)
- Even fewer live within their traditional rohe

2. Flora (plants), fauna (animals), and other biogenic features (e.g., rocky outcrops) present in the habitat(s)

Marine flora and primary producers

Macroalgae (Seaweeds)

Historically abundant species:

Rimurapa/Karengo (various seaweeds)

- Traditional mahinga kai
- Culturally significant food source
- Gathered seasonally

Rimurimu Species

- Habitat provider for small fish and invertebrates
- Food source for herbivorous species
- Ecosystem structure

Bull Kelp

- Ecosystem engineers in rocky reef areas
- Create complex three-dimensional habitat
- Support diverse communities

Current Status:

- Historically abundant in nearshore rocky areas
- Observed decline in some areas
- Climate change and sedimentation impacts suspected

Microalgae and primary production

Benthic Microalgae

- On sediment surfaces
- Primary production supporting food webs
- Light-dependent - vulnerable to turbidity

Phytoplankton

- Base of marine food chain
- Water column productivity
- Seasonal blooms important for ecosystem

Critical Consideration:

"Sediment plume from mining would reduce light penetration affecting primary production"

Seagrass

- Not extensively documented in deeper areas
- May exist in patches in suitable shallow areas
- Requires scientific survey confirmation
- Highly productive if present
- Nursery habitat for juvenile fish

Deed of Settlement Context - Loss of Marine Plants:

Para 2.121:

"The adjacent coastline also provided Ngaruahine with many vitally important resources including fish and shell-fish, edible plants, traditional medicines and items used for artistic and ceremonial purposes."

Para 2.124 - Traditional Knowledge Loss:

"Environmental damage and the loss of important natural taonga have contributed to the loss of Ngaruahine knowledge systems, rituals, and art forms."

Invertebrate Fauna (Kaimoana)

Traditional Mahinga Kai (Food Gathering) Species:

Kuku/Mussels

- Rocky substrates
- Culturally valued
- Commercial species

Kina/Sea Urchin

- Rocky reefs
- Reef health indicator
- Traditional delicacy
- Grazer – controls algae

Pāua/Abalone

- Rocky reefs
- Highly valued culturally and commercially
- Vulnerable to habitat disturbance

- Long-lived species

Tuatua

- Sandy beaches and nearshore
- Surf zone species
- Traditional and contemporary harvest
- Susceptible to beach modification

Pipi

- Sandy substrate dweller
- Culturally significant
- Gathered for hui, tangihanga, whānau kai
- Filter feeder - water quality indicator
- Observable decline in abundance

Other Molluscs

Octopus

- Rocky areas and crevices
- Traditional food source
- Intelligent species - behavioral observations in mātauranga

Squid Species

- Seasonal presence
- Commercial and recreational value
- Use benthic areas for spawning

Various Clam Species

- Infaunal (live in sediment)
- Ecosystem function - bioturbation
- Food for larger species

Crustaceans

Kōura/Crayfish

- Rocky reefs and caves
- Highly prized

- Commercial species
- Long-lived, slow-growing
- Habitat specialists - need complex reef structure

Pāpaka/Crabs

- *Ovalipes catharus* (paddle crab)
- *Cancer novaezelandiae* (pie crust crab)
- Various other species
- Scavengers and predators
- Ecosystem role

Shrimps and Prawns

- Multiple species
- Prey for larger fish
- Commercial bycatch
- Indicator of ecosystem health

Echinoderms

Starfish Species

- Predators and scavengers
- Multiple trophic roles
- Some species control mussel populations
- Indicator species

Other Invertebrates

Sea Anemones

- Attach to hard substrate
- Cnidarians - stinging cells
- Part of reef community

Sponges

- Filter feeders

- Create habitat structure
- Water quality indicators
- Diverse species assemblages

Worms (Polychaetes)

- Sediment dwellers
- Food source for fish
- Bioturbators
- High diversity

Bryozoans

- Colonial animals
- Create structure
- Filter feeders
- Attach to hard surfaces or shells

Tunicates (Sea Squirts)

- Filter feeders
- Some species form mats
- Food for some fish species

Historical Abundance:

Deed Para 2.3 (1840s-1850s):

"Together, the moana and takutai moana (coastal area)... provided Ngaruahine with enough resources to meet their needs, and also to exchange goods with European settlements and overseas traders."

Current Observations:

- Noticeable reduction in abundance of traditional shellfish species
- Smaller average sizes observed
- Increased difficulty finding sufficient kaimoana for cultural events and whānau use
- Some areas previously productive no longer sustain gathering

Fish Species

Demersal (Bottom-Dwelling) Species

Key Commercial and Customary Species:

Pātiki/Flounder Species

- Sandy/muddy bottoms
- Important food fish
- Culturally valued
- Indicator of benthic health
- Multiple species in family

Rari/Blue Cod

- If present in area (requires confirmation)
- Rocky areas
- Highly valued eating fish
- Vulnerable to overfishing

Moki

- Rocky areas
- Traditional food fish
- Herbivorous - grazes on algae
- Seasonal movements

Warehou

- Deeper waters
- Commercial species
- Schooling behavior
- Uses benthic areas

Tarakihi

- Diverse habitats
- Commercially important
- Demersal feeder
- Wide depth range

Gurnard

- Sandy/muddy bottoms
- Walk on pectoral fins
- Probe sediment for prey
- Traditional and commercial value

Red Cod

- Soft bottoms

- Commercially harvested
- Feeds on benthic invertebrates
- Important prey for larger fish

Schooling/Pelagic Species (Seasonally use benthic areas)

Trevally

- Coastal waters
- Recreational and customary fishery
- Feed on benthic and pelagic prey
- Seasonal aggregations

Kahawai

- Coastal waters
- Highly valued by recreational fishers
- Feed near bottom at times
- Seasonal migrations

Snapper

- If range extends to area (requires confirmation)
- Demersal feeder
- Commercially and recreationally important
- Climate change expanding range southward

Kingfish

- Seasonal visitors
- Top predator
- Recreational species
- Associated with structure

Sharks and Rays

Kapeta/Elephant Fish

- Benthic feeder
- Plow snout probes sediment
- Traditional food fish
- Seasonal aggregations for spawning

Whai/Stingrays (Various species)

- Sand/mud dwellers
- Feed on benthic invertebrates
- Culturally significant
- Multiple species present

Māngō/School Shark

- Coastal to offshore
- Demersal to pelagic
- Once abundant, now depleted
- Commercial history

Eagle Rays

- Seasonal visitors
- Feed on benthic molluscs
- Spectacular species
- Indicators of healthy systems

Various Small Shark Species

- Spiny dogfish
- Carpet sharks
- Ecological roles as predators

Spawning and Nursery Functions
Critical Ecosystem Services:

Several species use benthic habitats for spawning

- Specific species and locations require scientific survey
- Eggs laid on or in substrate
- Aggregation sites culturally and ecologically significant

Juvenile fish utilise structured benthic habitat

- Protection from predators
- Feeding areas
- Growth to maturity

Critical Issue:

"Disturbance of nursery areas affects fish stock recruitment"

- Loss of juvenile habitat reduces adult populations

- Effects on fisheries - commercial and customary
- Long-term ecosystem impacts

Traditional Knowledge:

- Ngāruahine mātauranga includes knowledge of spawning times and locations
- Traditional fishing practices protected spawning aggregations
- Seasonal restrictions based on maramataka (lunar calendar)
- Contemporary fishing pressure does not respect these practices

Changes observed in Fish stocks

Reduced Catch Rates:

- Reported by Ngāruahine fishers
- More effort required for same catch
- Some species rarely seen now

Distribution Changes:

- Changes in seasonal patterns
- Species appearing at different times
- Climate change effects suspected

Loss of Predictability:

- Traditional fishing practices tied to maramataka less reliable
- Difficulty passing on knowledge when patterns change
- Impacts intergenerational knowledge transfer

Deed Context - Para 2.95:

"Ngaruahine today regard their inshore fishery as severely depleted, partly as a result of the pollution of coastal waters by the operations of the dairying and mining industries."

Biogenic features and habitat structure

Rocky outcrops and Reefs

Ecological Importance:

Three-Dimensional Habitat Structure

- Vertical relief creates niches
- Crevices and caves provide shelter
- Current flow enhanced - brings food
- Complexity = biodiversity

Attachment Surfaces

- Sessile organisms (sponges, bryozoans, macroalgae)
- Create further structure
- Filter feeding communities
- Living substrate

Shelter for Fish and Invertebrates

- Protection from predators
- Feeding grounds
- Breeding sites
- Aggregation points

Biodiversity Hotspots

- **Critical for biodiversity**
- High species richness
- Rare species often found
- Ecosystem resilience

Cultural Significance:

- Rocky reefs known to Ngāruahine as important fishing areas
- **Specific locations withheld for protection**
- Associated with traditional narratives
- Indicators of healthy marine environment

Historical Context - Deed Para 1.4 and 1.8:

- Ngāruahine tupuna included "Te Kahui-Toka" (the rocky people)
- Suggests deep ancestral connection to rocky coastal/marine features
- Whakapapa relationship to geological features

3. Changes in habitat observed over the past 10 years, if any

TE KOROWAI O
NGĀRUAHINE
TRUST

Ngāruahine Observations – Decline in abundance and quality

Observed changes:

Abundance reduction

- Noticeable reduction in abundance of traditional shellfish species
- Areas that once sustained regular gathering no longer productive
- Must travel further to find adequate kaimoana

Size reduction

- Smaller average sizes observed
- Fewer large, mature specimens

Gathering difficulty

- Increased difficulty finding sufficient kaimoana for cultural events and whānau use
- More time and effort required
- Some whānau no longer attempt gathering due to futility
- Impacts cultural practice and knowledge transfer

Site abandonment

- Some areas previously productive no longer sustain gathering
- Traditional knowledge about specific sites becoming obsolete
- Loss of connection between place and practice
- Mokopuna cannot learn where ancestors gathered

Fish Stocks

Catch rate decline

- Reduced catch rates reported by Ngāruahine fishers
- Longer fishing trips for same or less catch
- Species once common now rare
- Economic impact on those who fish for whānau

Distributional changes

- Some species no longer present in areas where historically abundant

- Fish appearing at different times that traditionally expected

Loss of predictability

- Difficult prediciting good fishing times
- Weather patterns changing – traditional indicators less accurate
- Impacts ability to plan for hui and gather sufficient kai

Cultural Impacts

- Cannot pass on traditional knowledge when patterns have changed
- Mokopuna learn practices but cannot verify with experience
- Disconnection between mātauranga and contemporary reality
- Loss of confidence in customary fishing knowledge

Water quality concerns

Observed Indicators:

Turbidity/Sedimentation

- Increased sediment/turbidity during storm events
- Takes longer for water to clear after rain
- Visible plumes from river mouths
- Concern about sediment smothering benthic organisms

Contamination Concerns

- Concerns about contamination from industrial activities
- Dairy effluent, agricultural runoff
- Petroleum industry infrastructure
- Mining operations (onshore and potential offshore)

Food Safety

- Loss of confidence in safety of consuming kaimoana from some areas
- Uncertainty about contamination levels
- No systematic testing accessible to Ngāruahine
- Some whānau refuse to eat kaimoana from certain locations

Cultural Practice Impact

- Te Uru Taiao: "Ngāruahine Uri are no longer confident about the quality and abundance of the food in and around our rivers or that it is safe to eat"
- Cannot fulfill manaakitanga obligations if kai safety uncertain
- Spiritual concern - consuming contaminated kai from degraded environment affects mauri

Historical context from Deed of Settlement

Baseline State – 1840s-1850s

Deed Para 2.3:

"In the 1840s and 1850s, Ngaruahine were prosperous and economically successful. Southern Taranaki Maori including Ngaruahine traded flax with Europeans from the mid-1830s, milled flour and sold bread by the mid-1840s, and traded tons of potatoes from the mid-1850s. Together, the moana and takutai moana (coastal area), the awa and ngahere of the rohe provided Ngaruahine with enough resources to meet their needs, and also to exchange goods with European settlements and overseas traders."

Key Points:

- **Prosperity** based on abundant natural resources
- Marine resources sufficient for subsistence AND trade
- Economic success from resource abundance
- Moana and takutaimoana specifically identified as providing resources

Current State – Crown Acknowledgement

Deed Para 2.95 - Severe Depletion:

"Although a principal purpose of the establishment of the tauranga waka reserves was to recognise fishing grounds, Ngaruahine today regard their inshore fishery as severely depleted, partly as a result of the pollution of coastal waters by the operations of the dairying and mining industries."

Trajectory:

- From abundance supporting trade → to severe depletion
- From prosperity → to poverty
- From resource security → to food insecurity
- **Crown acknowledges mining industries as contributing cause**

Environmental Degradation – Crown Acknowledgement

Deed Para 3.13:

"The Crown acknowledges that environmental degradation of Ngaruahine lands, waterways and coastal waters, including deforestation, freshwater and marine pollution, and the displacement of indigenous plants and animals from the effects of the dairy industry, resource extractive industries and other causes is a source of great distress for Ngaruahine."

Specific acknowledged causes:

- Deforestation
- Freshwater pollution
- Marine pollution
- Dairy Industry effects
- Resource extractive industries

Deed Para 2.121-2.124 - Agricultural Impacts:

Para 2.122 - Dairy Industry Scale:

"Today, the soils of Taranaki support around 1,731 dairy herds, which together produce 10.4 per cent of New Zealand's total milk solids. The South Taranaki district has more than 300,000 cows, and more herds than any other district in New Zealand."

Para 2.123 - Environmental Effects:

"Farming activity has had some detrimental impacts on the landscape and environment of Taranaki. Much of Taranaki was cleared of bush for pastoral farming and settlement, and in the ring plain and coastal areas of south Taranaki, less than ten per cent of the indigenous forest remains. This has contributed to increased rates of erosion and

decreased biodiversity in some areas. Intensive agriculture has increased pressure on water resources and had some negative effects on soil and water quality."

Effects on Marine Environment:

- Sediment from erosion reaches coastal waters
- Nutrient runoff causes eutrophication
- Contamination enters food chain
- Cumulative effects over decades

Para 2.124 - Cultural Loss:

"The introduction of various exotic plant, animal, and fish species has led to indigenous fauna and flora being damaged or displaced. Together, environmental damage and the loss of important natural taonga have contributed to the loss of Ngaruahine knowledge systems, rituals, and art forms."

Specific Examples:

- Traditional Ngaruahine weaving declined due to loss of pingao (indigenous dune grass)
- Pingao displaced by marram grass introduction and grazing animals
- Hinu mud pools lost due to oil exploration effects
- Used to dye puipui, kete, wharaki - practice now impossible

Petroleum industry impacts

Deed Para 2.126 - Kapuni Gas Field:

"The Kapuni gas-field, located in the centre of the Ngaruahine rohe, is the largest on shore gas-field in New Zealand. It has been in production since 1970, and has played a significant role in the development of the Taranaki energy infrastructure and other large industries in the region."

Context:

- In production for 50+ years

- Infrastructure throughout Ngāruahine rohe
- Deed para 2.95 specifically identifies **mining industries** as contributing to coastal water pollution
- Contributed to regional economic growth while Ngāruahine remained impoverished

Deed Para 2.127 - Economic Disparity:

"The natural resources of south Taranaki make it one of the more prosperous regions in New Zealand. Ngaruahine feel, however, that their ability to take advantage of these resources has been severely limited by historic Crown actions. Many Ngaruahine feel aggrieved about living in relative poverty while their rich lands generate prosperity and economic growth."

Causes of decline - Ngāruahine Understanding

Cumulative Effects

Multiple stressors acting together

Land-Based Sediment and Nutrient Runoff

- From intensive agriculture (300,000+ cows in South Taranaki)
- Deforestation = erosion (less than 10% forest remains)
- Fertiliser and effluent contamination
- Continuous chronic pollution

Existing Industrial Activities

- Oil and gas infrastructure
- Kapuni gas-field operations since 1970
- Processing facilities
- Deed para 2.95 explicitly identifies mining industries as cause

Climate Change Effects

- Warming waters affecting species distribution
- Changing currents and upwelling patterns
- Ocean acidification - affects shellfish

- Extreme weather events increasing

Overfishing

- Commercial pressure on stocks
- Bycatch and habitat damage from trawling
- Reduced recruitment due to spawning stock depletion
- Inadequate quota management

Historical Habitat Modification

- Raupatu (confiscation) prevented customary management
- Development of coast for European settlement
- Loss of wetlands and estuaries
- Modification of river mouths

Cumulative impact greater than sum or parts

- Multiple stressors reduce ecosystem resilience
- Recovery from one impact prevented by ongoing others
- Threshold effects - system state changes
- Difficult to attribute to single cause - but total effect clear

Crown's Own Acknowledgement - "Muru, Raupatu, Muru Ano"

Deed Para 2.120:

"Many Ngaruahine today feel that the perpetual leasing regime also perpetuates their sense of loss, and that for this reason it would almost have been better to lose the land outright. Ngaruahine use the phrase 'Muru, Raupatu, Muru Ano' to describe their experience of historical Crown actions which, taken cumulatively, have left Ngaruahine almost landless, and which have created a sense of grievance which has accumulated over time."

Application to Marine Environment:

- First taking: Land confiscation depriving access to coast and mahinga kai (1860s)

- Ongoing taking: Pollution from industries extracting wealth from Ngāruahine lands
- Mining proposal would be: **Muru Ano** - another taking from already depleted marine environment

INTERCONNECTED EFFECTS - NGĀRUAHINE WORLDVIEW

Mauri - The Life Force

From Te Uru Taiao O Ngāruahine:

"For Ngāruahine, the Taiao is connected to our collective wellbeing. The mauri, or state of the Taiao, is a direct reflection of our behaviour. The capacity and ability of our mokopuna to harvest and live well is an indicator of the mauri of the Taiao."

Mauri Assessment:

- **Declining mauri evident in:**
    - Reduced abundance and diversity of kaimoana
    - Uncertainty about food safety
    - Loss of intergenerational knowledge transfer
    - Disconnection between uri and traditional practices
    - Inability to fulfill cultural obligations

Observable Indicators of Declining Mauri:

Ecosystem Health

- Species abundance declining
- Size structure altered
- Biodiversity loss
- Habitat degradation visible

Cultural Health

- Cannot gather sufficient kai for hui
- Mokopuna cannot learn practices in degraded environment
- Loss of confidence in traditional knowledge
- Spiritual distress from witnessing degradation

Community Wellbeing

- Economic impacts - cannot supplement food from gathering
- Social impacts - cannot fulfill manaakitanga obligations
- Identity impacts - connection to place threatened
- Intergenerational trauma - passing on degraded environment

Crown Acknowledgement - Deed Para 3.16:

"The Crown acknowledges that its breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries have together significantly undermined the traditional systems of authority and economic capacity of the Ngaruahine iwi, and the physical, cultural and spiritual wellbeing of its people."

Connection:

- Physical wellbeing - food insecurity, contamination concerns
- Cultural wellbeing - loss of practices, knowledge, connection
- Spiritual wellbeing - mauri of environment = mauri of people
- All interconnected through relationship with marine environment

Te Mana o Te Wai o Ngāruahine

From Te Uru Taiao:

"Ngāruahine are inextricably connected to our waterways... The waters that flow through these awa symbolise the link between the past and the present, each with its own mauri and wairua - connecting each Hapū to the awa by providing both physical and spiritual sustenance."

"These waterways abound in wāhi tapū and wāhi taonga. Once plentiful, clean Wai Māori has historically provided abundant and easily accessible gifts of mahinga kai... Where a waterway suffers from contamination, modification, and disruption, we feel the effects. The health of the water is bound to the health of Ngaruahine people, and we have an obligation to protect its mauri as kaitiaki."

Application to Marine Environment:

- Rivers are "blood and veins of takutaimoana" (Deed para 1.25)
- Pollution and degradation of rivers affects entire marine system
- Cannot separate freshwater from marine health
- Ngāruahine feel effects personally - not abstract environmental issue

DATA LIMITATIONS - CRITICAL GAPS

Why Ngāruahine Has Limited Quantitative Data

Historical Context from Deed of Settlement:

Para 2.127 - Economic Disparity:

"Many Ngaruahine feel aggrieved about living in relative poverty while their rich lands generate prosperity and economic growth"

Para 2.128 - Socioeconomic Impacts:

"The massive loss of Ngaruahine lands arising from various Crown actions and omissions during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has negatively impacted many areas of Ngaruahine life. The people of Ngaruahine have suffered from the effects of poverty, poor housing and degraded physical and spiritual health. Ngaruahine have been unable to develop a strong economic base, and the unemployment rate among Ngaruahine is more than double the national average."

Result:

- Limited financial resources for systematic monitoring
- Cannot afford scientific surveys or equipment
- Capacity constraints - people working multiple jobs for survival
- No institutional support until recent settlement

Para 2.102-2.103 - Historical Impoverishment:

"It is likely that the administration of the West Coast reserves by the Public Trustee and its succeeding bodies, the Native Trustee and the Maori Trustee, contributed to the gradual impoverishment of Ngaruahine during the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries."

Sir Maui Pomare (1904):

"Their heritage has been taken away from them, and now in the abandon of despair, they say 'He aha te pai? (What is the good? The Public Trustee has eaten the heart of the melon, and we are given the rind')".

Para 2.28 - Access Constraints:

"Over 145,000 acres out of the approximately 172,000 acre Ngaruahine rohe was retained by the Crown and on-sold to settlers, depriving Ngaruahine of access to significant wahi tapu, food-gathering areas, and other culturally significant sites."

Impact on Monitoring Ability:

- Loss of land = loss of coastal access in many areas
- Cannot monitor areas we cannot access
- Commercial restrictions prevent access to some marine areas
- Safety and liability concerns limit ability to conduct surveys

Observations Are Qualitative But Valid

Nature of Available Information:

- Based on lived experience and traditional knowledge
- Observations over lifetimes and across generations

- Comparison with knowledge passed down from kaumātua
- Documented in Te Uru Taiao and settlement negotiations

Validity:

- Consistent observations across multiple individuals
- Corroborated by Crown's own acknowledgements in Deed
- Supported by general scientific understanding of impacts
- Mātauranga Māori is valid knowledge system

Lack of Baseline Data:

- No comprehensive scientific surveys from 10+ years ago
- Makes quantitative comparison difficult
- But qualitative decline is undeniable
- Trend direction is clear even without precise numbers

This Information Gap is NOT Ngāruahine's Responsibility

Critical Point:

"This information gap is a failure of existing management systems, not Ngāruahine responsibility"

Why:

Regulatory agencies responsible for environmental monitoring

- Taranaki Regional Council
- Department of Conservation
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Have statutory obligations and resources

Applicant's responsibility to provide baseline

- Standard EIA practice worldwide
- Required to assess effects under s59 EEZ Act
- Cannot apply to disturb environment without knowing what's there
- Burden of proof on applicant, not affected communities

Ngāruahine systematically impoverished by Crown actions

- Acknowledged in Deed of Settlement
- Cannot expect iwi to fill gaps created by Crown's failure
- Compounding historical injustice

Settlement intended to enhance relationship

- Deed para 4.1.4: Settlement "intended to enhance the ongoing relationship"

- Requesting iwi to remediate applicant's failures contradicts this
- Partnership requires Crown agencies to fulfill their responsibilities

NEED FOR INVESTMENT IN KAITIAKI CAPACITY

Te Uru Taiao General Policy 2: Requirements for Ngāruahine capacity for cultural health monitoring should be resourced

What This Means:

- Funding for equipment and training
- Support for community-based monitoring programs
- Integration of mātauranga Māori and scientific methods
- Long-term commitment, not one-off project

Current Reality:

- Ngāruahine cannot conduct systematic monitoring without resources
- Settlement provides some capacity but insufficient for comprehensive marine monitoring
- Kaitiaki role acknowledged but not adequately supported

Request to Panel and Applicant:

- If process continues, **Ngāruahine capacity for cultural health monitoring must be resourced** (Te Uru Taiao General Policy 5)
- Financial contributions to support Ngāruahine kaitiaki monitoring
- Not consultation fees - actual capacity building
- All information gathered through this process must be shared with Ngāruahine

4. Use of the habitat(s), if any

A foundational understanding of Te Ao Māori tells us that our taiao is intimately interlinked. ‘Ki uta ki tai’ refers to the journey of wai as it falls from the sky, flows over land and out to sea. Part of this journey in Taranaki is the flow of wai from our tupuna maunga, which transports iron-rich minerals through our awa to the moana.

Within a Ngāruahine context, the iron in our whenua and sand goes back to when Turi, captain of the Aotea waka was told by Kupe of the whenua that was termed as ‘One-kakara', the soil that was sweet smelling and therefore fertile for growing kūmara. The volcanic properties of our whenua have been longed recognised as important for our

cultural identity, and the iron rich sands and benthic material in our moana are vital to our taonga species as well as our coastal, and oceanic environments.

Ngā mihi,

Tupua te Mauri