

IN THE HIGH COURT OF NEW ZEALAND

CIV-2017-485-283

WELLINGTON REGISTRY

I TE KŌTI MATUA O AOTEAROA

WHANGANUI Ā TARA ROHE

IN THE MATTER OF

the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana)
Act 2011 (the Act)

AND

an application by Ngātiwai Trust Board for an
order recognising customary marine title and
protected customary rights

AFFIDAVIT OF REUBEN DAYHAL WILLIAMS

Dated this 11th day of July 2024

OCEANLAW NEW ZEALAND

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I, REUBEN DAYHAL WILLIAMS, of Whangārei, Communications Professional solemnly and sincerely affirm:

1. I am Ngātiwai and affiliate to Omaha marae. My great-great-grandfather lived at Leigh, or Pakiri, and my grandparent and other tupuna are buried there. On my father's side I also whakapapa to Ngāi Tūpango, Ngāpuhi, up north around Kaeo.
2. Growing up I was very close to my grandfather and others of that generation and I learnt a lot by sitting with them and listening, rather than running around with the other kids. These days I give back by representing them as a trustee on the Omaha marae trust.
3. I understand that Dr Terence Green, a witness for the Attorney-General, has given evidence that touches on the role of the Department of Conservation (DoC) in the management of Taranga and the Marotere Islands (known as the Hen and Chickens Islands), and that co-operation between the Department and the NTB is referred to in that evidence. The purpose of this affidavit is to put before the Court my own experience which is relevant to that mahi.
4. I worked for DoC in a range of roles for around 20 years. It all started in the mid-1990s – 1996, I think – when I heard that there was forestry work available on Aotea. I went to visit my uncle Laly Haddon, who was the Omaha marae representative on the Ngātiwai Trust Board at the time, to find out more. I said to him 'Hello, uncle, I heard you are looking for someone to go to do some work on the islands', he said, 'You can represent us. You'd be at this place tomorrow morning.' And that place was the DoC office down in Auckland.
5. I turned up at the office the next morning thinking I was going to go to Aotea to cut forestry for about a month and was told that there was an opportunity to go to Hauturu, to do invasive plant control out there. And it was for six months! So, I went back and packed a bag, and was at the wharf and on a boat not too long after that.
6. After that time on Hauturu, I did some other work for DoC in the local area around Warkworth. From there I applied for different roles around the country, and I was successful in getting a Ranger's role here at the local Whangārei office.
7. In that role I worked in all different parts of the Conservation estate, including on the Hen, & Chickens and other offshore islands, right up to the Poor Knights. I had that role until the mid-2000s, when I took some time out to obtain a Communications Degree, then I went back to the Whangārei

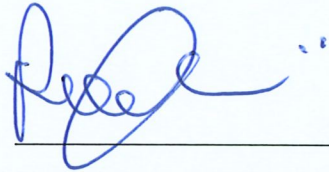


office in middle management roles for a while. Ultimately, I ended up in Media and Communications roles in DoC head office in Wellington until I was forced to stop working due to medical issues.

8. In the time I worked as a Ranger, I would generally be involved in several trips to Hen & Chickens every season – that usually meant in summer, but it could be spring or autumn, depending on what work or research was being done. I would say I have probably been on the Islands at least 20 times in total. There was a lot of work and research done on the islands: as well as invasive plant control, there were lizard surveys, invertebrate surveys, research on birds and archaeological research.
9. I have seen maps included in the evidence of Richard Jennings showing archaeological sites on the Islands and can confirm that I have seen many signs of semi-permanent or long-term habitation on the Islands, including channels to funnel rainwater into garden mounds and beds. There were also items found on the Islands that show how they were connected to the mainland, such as the orange rock known as chert, obsidian and other types of stones and shells that don't naturally occur on the Islands.
10. I also had some involvement in work DoC did with Hori Parata on preservation of kiore, and even gave evidence for the Crown in the Wai 262 inquiry on how that work was a positive example of the Crown trying to contribute to the preservation of matauranga Māori.
11. In that time, everyone in the Whangārei office knew that if you planned on doing work on the Islands, you had to make contact with Ngātiwai and you better make sure you have a spare seat in the helicopter or on the boat for Hori or another iwi representative to come along. That requirement to engage with iwi/hapū was part of our Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and I always did my best to remind people of the importance of it, which was sometime necessary, especially for researchers coming in from outside the region.
12. Ngātiwai has a strong relationship with all of the Islands, from Aotea and Hauturu, north to Motukokako and the Poor Knights. But the Hen & Chickens are a really special place. It was my privilege to be able to



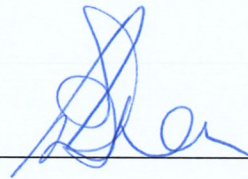
contribute to protection of the flora and fauna of those places, as well as the culture and history, while I worked for DoC.



Reuben Dayhal Williams

AFFIRMED at Whangārei this 11th day of July 2024

before me:



C Browne
Deputy Registrar
Whangarei District/High Court

(Deputy) Registrar
Justice of the Peace
~~A Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand~~