Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Treaty settlements and other obligations (Section 18) report

Project Name: FTAA-2607-1268 Hinuera Solar Farm

To:	Date:
Panel Convener, Jane Borthwick	22 September 2026

Number of attachments: 5	Attachments: 1. Provisions of section 18 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 2. Project location maps 3. List of relevant Māori groups 4. Raukawa statutory acknowledgement provisions – Waihou River and tributaries 5. Ngāti Hinerangi statutory acknowledgement provisions – Waihou River and tributaries

Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport contacts:

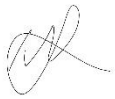
Position	Name	Cell phone	1st contact
Principal Author	[redacted]		
Acting Manager, Fast-track Operations		[redacted]	✓
Acting General Manager, Investment Strategy & Operations		[redacted]	

Key points

1. As required by section 49 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act), the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport (on behalf of the Secretary for the Environment) has prepared this report on Treaty settlements and other obligations (section 18 of the Act) in relation to the substantive application FTAA-2607-1268 Hinuera Solar Farm.
2. The applicant, Harmony Energy NZ #6 Limited, proposes the construction, operation, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning or repowering of a utility-scale solar farm and battery energy storage system on approximately 154.53 hectares of rural land at Hinuera, near Matamata. The project is expected to generate approximately 147 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of renewable electricity annually, enough to power approximately 21,000 homes. The applicant is seeking approvals under the Act which would otherwise be sought under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). No other approvals are sought.

3. Section 18(2) of the Act requires that the report provide a list of relevant Māori groups, including relevant iwi authorities and Treaty settlement entities. Most of those groups must be invited by the panel to comment on a substantive application under section 53(2) of the Act. We have identified Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust, Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Trust, Raukawa Settlement Trust, and Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated as relevant groups for this application.
4. We have identified the following Treaty settlements as relevant to the application: Ngāti Hauā Claims Settlement Act 2014; Raukawa Claims Settlement Act 2014; Ngāti Hinerangi Claims Settlement Act 2021; and, to a limited extent, the Pare Hauraki Collective Redress Bill and deed.
5. The Raukawa Claims Settlement Act 2014 and Ngāti Hinerangi Claims Settlement Act 2021 provide for statutory acknowledgements over the Waihou River and its tributaries, which incorporates the project area. Under the RMA and relevant Treaty settlements, a consent authority must have regard to a statutory acknowledgement when deciding whether an iwi is an 'affected person' for the purposes of notification decisions, and must provide a summary of any consent applications relevant to the statutory area to a statutory acknowledgement holder. We consider inviting these Treaty settlement entities to comment on the application (including providing information about the application) under section 53 of the Act is comparable to the requirements for statutory acknowledgements under the RMA and Treaty settlements.
6. The Pare Hauraki Collective Redress Bill and deed provide for natural resources redress over the Waihou, Piako and Coromandel catchments, including the establishment of governance entities and provisions relating to notification of resource consent applications and the appointment of hearings commissioners. The project area is within the Waihou catchment, but these redress provisions are currently not operative because the Pare Hauraki Collective Redress Bill has not been enacted.
7. While the Waihou, Piako and Coromandel catchments redress, and the Raukawa deeds of recognition over the Waihou River and its tributaries, do not place any direct obligations on the panel, they provide important context regarding the nature and extent of iwi interests in the project area.

Signature



Max Gander-Cooper
Acting Manager – Fast-track Operations

Introduction

8. For a substantive application that relates to a listed project, under section 49 of the Act, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) must request a report from the responsible agency (Secretary for the Environment) that is prepared in accordance with section 18(2) and (3) of the Act (but does not contain the matters in section 18(2)(l) and (m)).

9. The information which must be provided in this report includes:

    a. relevant iwi authorities, Treaty settlement entities, applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 (MACA), and other Māori groups with interests in the project area; and

    b. relevant principles and provisions in Treaty settlements and other arrangements.

10. This report is structured accordingly. We have provided a list of the relevant provisions of section 18 at **Attachment 1**.

Proposed project

11. The applicant, Harmony Energy NZ #6 Limited, proposes the construction, operation, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning or repowering of a utility-scale solar farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) on approximately 154.53 hectares of rural land at Hinuera, near Matamata. All electricity generated will be exported to the electricity network via the nearby Powerco Hinuera substation. The project is expected to generate approximately 147GWh of renewable electricity annually, enough to power approximately 21,000 homes.

12. The project is expected to include: the installation of approximately 170,000 solar panels; ancillary infrastructure (including connections and cabling, BESS, central inverter or string transformer stations, switching station/switchroom, operations, maintenance and storage buildings); connection to the Hinuera substation (requiring 33kV cabling to be installed via public road reserves or private land easements); earthworks; stormwater management; security fencing and lighting; internal access roads; weather stations; and ecological restoration of wetlands and streams.

13. The applicant is seeking approvals under the Act which would otherwise be sought under the RMA (including vegetation clearance, earthworks, diversion of water within and adjacent to natural wetlands, water take, diversion, riverbed structures, soil disturbance, land use, cleanfill discharge). No other approvals are sought.

14. The project is located at the corner of State Highway 29 and State Highway 27. The project area comprises six titles in private ownership. The applicant has binding option agreements with the landowners for a 34-year easement for the development, construction, and operation of the solar farm.

15. We have provided location maps at **Attachment 2**.

Relevant iwi authorities, Treaty settlement entities, and other Māori groups

16. We note that some entities identified below may be included in more than one category. We have included a composite list of all groups at **Attachment 3**, including contact details.[1]

[1] These are the contact details we could locate in the time available, and in some cases they will be the generic email address for the entity.

Iwi authorities

17. Under section 4(2) of the Act, 'iwi authority' has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the RMA:

> *the authority which represents an iwi and which is recognised by that iwi as having authority to do so*.

18. We consider the following groups to be the relevant iwi authorities for the project area:

    a. Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust, representing Ngāti Hauā;
    b. Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Trust, representing Ngāti Hinerangi; and
    c. Raukawa Settlement Trust, representing Raukawa.

Treaty settlement entities

19. Under section 4(1) of the Act, "Treaty settlement entity" means any of the following:

> *(a) a post-settlement governance entity (PSGE):*
>
> *(b) a board, trust, committee, authority, or other body, incorporated or unincorporated, that is recognised in or established under any Treaty settlement Act:*
>
> *(c) an entity or a person that is authorised by a Treaty settlement Act to act for a natural resource feature with legal personhood:*
>
> *(d) Te Ohu Kai Moana or a mandated iwi organisation (as those terms are defined in section 5(1) of the Maori Fisheries Act 2004):*
>
> *(e) an iwi aquaculture organisation (as defined in section 4 of the Maori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004).*

20. Under the Act, a PSGE:

> *(a) means a body corporate or the trustees of a trust established, for the purpose of receiving redress in the Treaty settlement of a claimant group,—*
>
> > *(i) by that group; or*
> >
> > *(ii) by or under an enactment or order of a court; and*
>
> *(b) includes—*
>
> > *(i) an entity established to represent a collective or combination of claimant groups; and*
> >
> > *(ii) an entity controlled by an entity referred to in paragraph (a); and*
> >
> > *(iii) an entity controlled by a hapū to which redress has been transferred by an entity referred to in paragraph (a).*

21. In keeping with the procedural principles outlined at section 10 of the Act, we only identify those PSGEs which are specified in the relevant Treaty settlement Act or Treaty settlement deed.[2]

22. We have identified the following relevant Treaty settlement entities for this project area:

[2] Should a panel be made aware of a Treaty settlement entity established after the Treaty settlement Act is enacted (e.g. on the advice of a PSGE), then there would appear to be nothing to prevent the panel from inviting that entity to comment on the application under section 53(2)(c) of the Act.

a. Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust, PSGE for Ngāti Hauā Claims Settlement Act 2014;

b. Raukawa Settlement Trust, PSGE for Raukawa Claims Settlement Act 2014; and

c. Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Trust, PSGE for Ngāti Hinerangi Claims Settlement Act 2021.

Groups mandated to negotiate Treaty settlements

23. There are no groups which have recognised mandates to negotiate a Treaty settlement over an area which may include the project area. All historical claims under te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi have been settled in respect of the project area.

Takutai Moana groups and ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou

24. The project area does not include the common marine and coastal area, and accordingly there are no relevant applicant groups under MACA, and no court orders or agreements that recognise protected customary rights or customary marine title within the project area.

25. The project area is not within ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou (as set out in the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019).

Iwi or hapū whose practices are recognised under the Fisheries Act 1996 through regulation or bylaws

26. The project area does not include a taiāpure-local fisheries area, mātaitai reserve, or area subject to a bylaw or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996.

Owners of identified Māori land where electricity infrastructure or land transport infrastructure is proposed

27. Section 39 of the Act provides that before a substantive application is lodged for a listed project or a referred project, the Minister may determine under section 23 or 24 that, for the purposes of the project, an activity described in section 5(1)(a) is not an ineligible activity if it:

    a. is the construction of electricity lines or land transport infrastructure by (or to be operated by) a network utility operator that is a requiring authority; and

    b. would occur on identified Māori land that is Māori freehold land or General land owned by Māori that was previously Māori freehold land.

28. This project does not involve an activity described in section 23(1) (i.e. including both (a) and (b)) of the Act.

Iwi authorities and groups representing hapū who are party to relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements

29. If the project area is within the boundaries of either a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreement, and the application includes a proposed RMA approval described in section 42(4)(a) to (d) (resource consent, certificate of compliance, or designation), we are required to identify the relevant iwi authority/group that represent hapū that are parties to these arrangements.

30. We have not identified any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements that are relevant to the project area, and accordingly there no parties to these arrangements to identify.

Any other Māori groups with relevant interests

31. We note that the applicant has also engaged with Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated, representing Waikato-Tainui, so we have included them as another Māori group with relevant interests under section 18(2)(k) of the Act.

Relevant principles and provisions in Treaty settlements and other arrangements

Treaty settlements

32. Under section 4(1) of the Act, a Treaty settlement includes both a Treaty settlement Act and a Treaty settlement deed which is signed by both the Crown and representatives of a group of Māori.

33. The following Treaty settlements relate to land, species of plants or animals, or other resources within the project area:

    a. Ngāti Hauā Claims Settlement Act 2014;

    b. Raukawa Claims Settlement Act 2014;

    c. Ngāti Hinerangi Claims Settlement Act 2021; and

    d. Pare Hauraki Collective Redress Bill (introduced December 2022, awaiting First Reading) and Pare Hauraki collective redress deed (signed August 2018).

34. While we have included the Pare Hauraki Collective Redress Bill and deed as a relevant Treaty settlement, we have not included any of the Hauraki iwi in the lists of the relevant iwi authorities, Treaty settlement entities, or groups mandated to negotiate settlements, outlined above. This is because the project area does not fall within the areas of interest of Hauraki iwi.

35. However, the Pare Hauraki Collective Redress Bill and deed provide for redress over the entire Waihou River catchment, which extends south beyond the areas of interest of Hauraki iwi to include the project area. Generally, the Crown does not offer redress outside the area of interest of a negotiating group. In this instance, the agreed redress over the Waihou, Piako and Coromandel catchments (discussed further below) also incorporates Ngāti Hauā, Raukawa, and Ngāti Hinerangi, as groups with interests in the upper Waihou catchment. Accordingly, the Pare Hauraki Collective Redress Bill and deed are pertinent to the extent that they provide for redress over the project area, and to those groups relevant to project area.

Relevant principles and provisions

36. Section 7 of the Act requires all persons exercising powers and functions under the Act to act in a manner consistent with Treaty settlements. The relevant principles and provisions for each of these settlements are set out below.

Crown acknowledgements and apologies

37. The Crown offers acknowledgements and an apology to relevant groups as part of Treaty settlement redress to atone for historical wrongs that breached te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi, to restore honour, and begin the process of healing.

38. As part of its apologies to Ngāti Hāua, Raukawa, and Ngāti Hinerangi, the Crown stated that it looked forward to building a new relationship with these groups based on co-

operation, mutual trust, and respect for te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles. The redress mechanisms provided for in Treaty settlements should be viewed in the context of these intentions.

Statutory acknowledgements

39. A statutory acknowledgement is an acknowledgement by the Crown of a 'statement of association' between the iwi and an identified area (the ‘statutory area’). The Raukawa Claims Settlement Act 2014 and the Ngāti Hinerangi Claims Settlement Act 2021 each provide for a statutory acknowledgement over the Waihou River and its tributaries. The project area includes Mangawhero Stream (and an unnamed tributary), which is a tributary of the Waihou River to the northeast.

40. Under the RMA and the relevant settlement Acts, a consent authority must, when considering a resource consent for a proposed activity that is within, adjacent to, or directly affecting a statutory area:

    a. provide a summary of the application to the holder of the statutory acknowledgement. The summary of the application must be the same as would be given to an affected person by limited notification under the RMA. The summary must be provided as soon as is reasonably practicable after the relevant consent authority receives the application, but before they decide whether to notify the application; and

    b. have regard to the statutory acknowledgement when deciding whether the holder (generally a PSGE) is an 'affected person' for the purposes of notification decisions under the RMA. [3]

41. The holder of a statutory acknowledgment may also cite this as evidence of their association with a statutory area in any submission before a relevant consent authority (or the Environment Court, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, the EPA, or a board of inquiry), which may, in turn, take that statutory acknowledgement into account.

42. The Waihou River and tributaries statutory acknowledgements may be relevant if any of the proposed activities will directly affect this waterway, such as stormwater discharge, dewatering for cable trenches, earthworks, and diversion of water required for culverted stream crossings. We note that the applicant is proposing to mitigate any effects, including by implementing erosion and sediment controls, and through riparian planting.

43. Under section 53(2)(b) and (c) of the Act, the panel must direct the EPA to invite written comments from Raukawa and Ngāti Hinerangi (amongst other iwi authorities and Treaty settlement entities), who will be provided access to the application information. We consider the process of inviting comment (including providing information about the application) under the Act is comparable to the process under a Treaty settlement and the RMA of providing those who hold statutory acknowledgements with a summary of the application (and having regard to statutory acknowledgements when considering who is an affected person for the purposes of limited notification of a resource consent application).

[3] In addition to consent authorities, the Environment Court and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga must also have regard to statutory acknowledgements in relation to some of their processes.

44. We have provided the statutory acknowledgement provisions for Raukawa and Ngāti Hinerangi, including the relevant deed plans and statements of association, at **Attachment 4** and **Attachment 5** respectively. [4]

Deeds of recognition

45. In addition to a statutory acknowledgement, the Raukawa Claims Settlement Act 2014 provides for a deed of recognition with the Commissioner of Crown Lands, administered by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), and with the Minister of Conservation and Director-General of Conservation, over the Waihou River and its tributaries.

46. The deed of recognition with the Commissioner of Crown Lands requires them to consult with Raukawa, and have regard to the views of Raukawa concerning their association with the Waihou River and tributaries, when undertaking any of the following activities in relation to that statutory area:

    a. considering an application for a right of use or application;

    b. preparing a plan, strategy, or programme for protection and management;

    c. conducting a survey of usage; or

    d. preparing a programme to eradicate noxious flora and fauna.

47. The deed of recognition with the Minister of Conservation and Director-General of Conservation requires them to consult Raukawa, and have regard to the views of Raukawa concerning their association with the Waihou River and tributaries, when undertaking any of the following activities in relation to that statutory area:

    a. preparing a conservation management strategy, conservation management plan, or national park management plan;

    b. preparing a non-statutory plan, strategy, or programme to protect and manage a statutory area that is a river; or

    c. locating or construction structures, signs, or tracks.

48. We do not consider these provisions are relevant to this application, as neither LINZ or DOC are undertaking any of the activities covered by the deeds of recognition in relation to the project area, nor is the applicant seeking use rights or occupation in relation to Crown-owned parts of the streambeds subject to the deed of recognition.

Waihou, Piako and Coromandel catchments redress

49. As noted above, the project area is within the Waihou River catchment. The Pare Hauraki Collective Redress Bill and deed provide for redress over the Waihou, Piako and Coromandel catchments. This includes:

    a. the establishment of the Waihou, Piako and Coromandel Catchment Authority, to provide co-governance, oversight and direction for the Coromandel, Waihou and Piako waterways; and

    b. the preparation of a Waihou, Piako and Coromandel Catchments Plan.

50. The proposed Waihou, Piako and Coromandel Catchment Authority would include a subcommittee, Te Mātāpuna o ngā awa o Waihou Piako, with a specific focus on the upper

[4] Since the statutory acknowledgements provisions are standard drafting across Treaty settlement Acts, we have only provided the legislative provisions from the Raukawa Claims Settlement Act 2014.

Waihou and Piako catchments. Te Mātāpuna o ngā awa o Waihou Piako comprises one member appointed by each of Raukawa, Ngāti Hauā and Ngāti Hinerangi, one member appointed by Pare Hauraki, and one member appointed by each of the Waikato Regional Council, Matamata-Piako District Council, Hauraki District Council, and South Waikato District Council. Te Mātāpuna o ngā awa o Waihou Piako would provide one member to the Waihou, Piako and Coromandel Catchment Authority which would oversee the entirety of all three catchments.

51. Amongst other responsibilities, the proposed Waihou, Piako and Coromandel Catchment Authority would maintain a register of hearing commissioners, in consultation with Te Mātāpuna o ngā awa o Waihou Piako, for resource consents relating to the waterways in the catchments. The Pare Hauraki Collective Redress Bill and deed provide that the relevant consent authority must have particular regard to the commissioner register when appointing hearing commissioners in relation to consent applications that affect the catchments.

52. The Pare Hauraki Collective Redress Bill and deed also require the relevant local authorities to provide the Waihou, Piako and Coromandel Catchment Authority, Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Hinerangi, Raukawa, and the Pare Hauraki collective cultural entity, with information about resource consent applications for activities which would affect the catchments.

53. We note that these provisions relating to the Waihou and Piako catchments are not operative, and that the Waihou, Piako and Coromandel Catchment Authority and Te Mātāpuna o ngā awa o Waihou Piako have yet to be established, because the Pare Hauraki Collective Redress Bill has not been enacted. While section 7 of the Act requires all persons performing and exercising functions, powers, and duties to act in a manner that is consistent with the obligations arising under existing Treaty settlements (where the definition of 'Treaty settlements' includes a signed Treaty settlement deed), in this instance the relevant provisions are not able to be practically replicated without a Treaty settlement Act.[5] Nevertheless, we draw this redress to your attention for context and completeness.

Section 27B memorial

54. We note that two of the land parcels within the project area, Section 9 and Section 11 Block X Tapapa, are subject to section 27B of the State-Owned Enterprises Act 1986. A section 27B memorial is placed on the title of private land that has previously been owned by a state-owned enterprise, and notes that the Waitangi Tribunal can recommend the return of that land to Māori.[6]

55. A Treaty settlement Act may remove Section 27B memorials on land within an area if all claims in that area have been settled. Private landowners can also apply to the Waitangi Tribunal to remove a section 27B memorial from a certificate of title, in accordance with sections 8D to 8H of the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975.

56. Finally, we note that iwi and hapū are likely to have cultural associations with ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga beyond what is specifically identified in a

[5] The panel would also need to be mindful that, notwithstanding the commitments made through signing a Treaty settlement deed, Parliament still has the authority to amend the relevant settlement Bill.

[6] For this to happen, the Tribunal must first inquire into and report on any relevant claims relating to that land. If the Tribunal finds that a claim relating to that land is well founded, it can make a binding recommendation to the Crown that it purchase the land and return it to Māori ownership as a way of settling a claim (known as 'resumption'). See https://www.waitangitribunal.govt.nz/en/claims-process/other-applications/memorialised-land

Treaty settlement or other arrangements. Local tangata whenua and their representatives would be best placed to advise on such matters in the first instance.

Customary Marine Title/Protected Customary Rights

57. As noted above, the project area is not within a customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or within or adjacent to ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou.

Taiāpure-local fisheries/mātaitai reserves/areas subject to bylaws or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996

58. As noted above, the project area does not include a taiāpure-local fishery, mātaitai reserve, or area subject to bylaws or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996.

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe/Joint management agreement

59. As noted above, we have not identified any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements that are relevant to the project area.

Consultation with departments

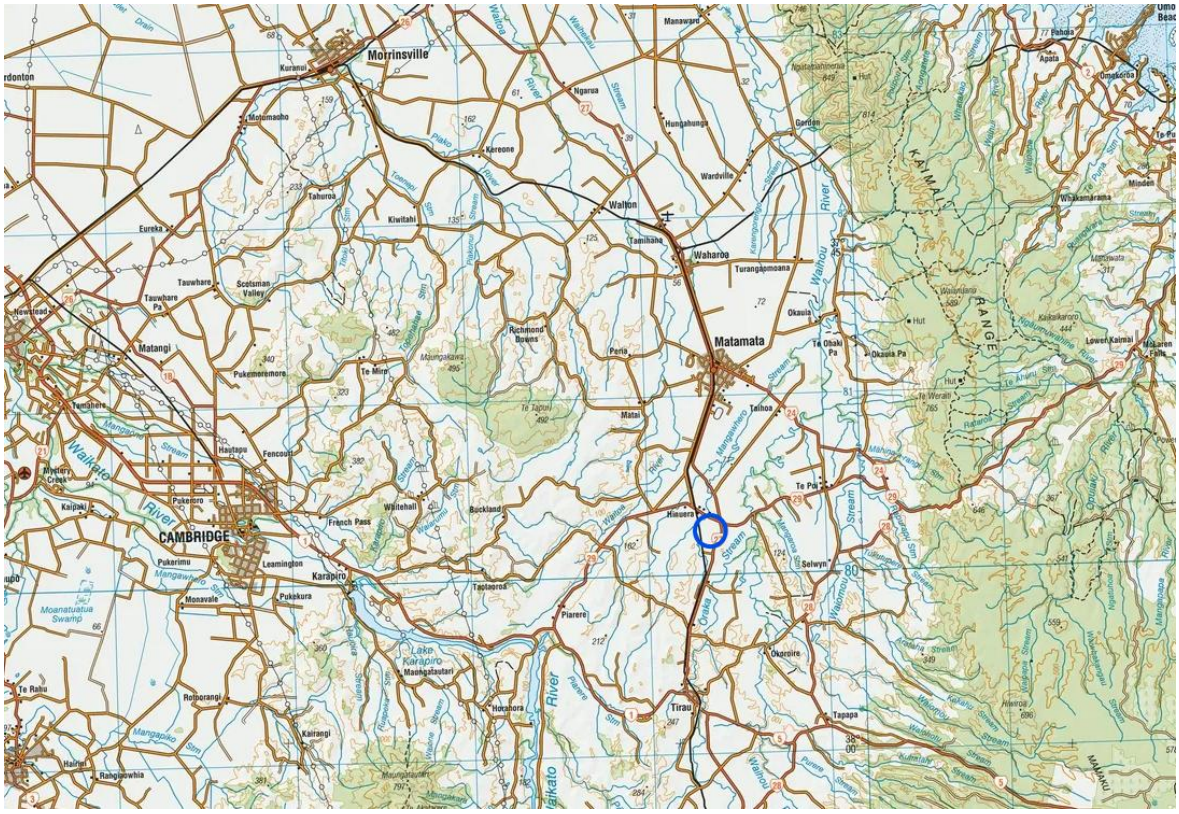
60. In preparing this report, we are required to consult relevant departments. We sought advice from Te Puni Kōkiri and the Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana – Te Tari Whakatau regarding the relevant Māori groups, and have incorporated their views into this report.

Attachment 1: Provisions of section 18 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

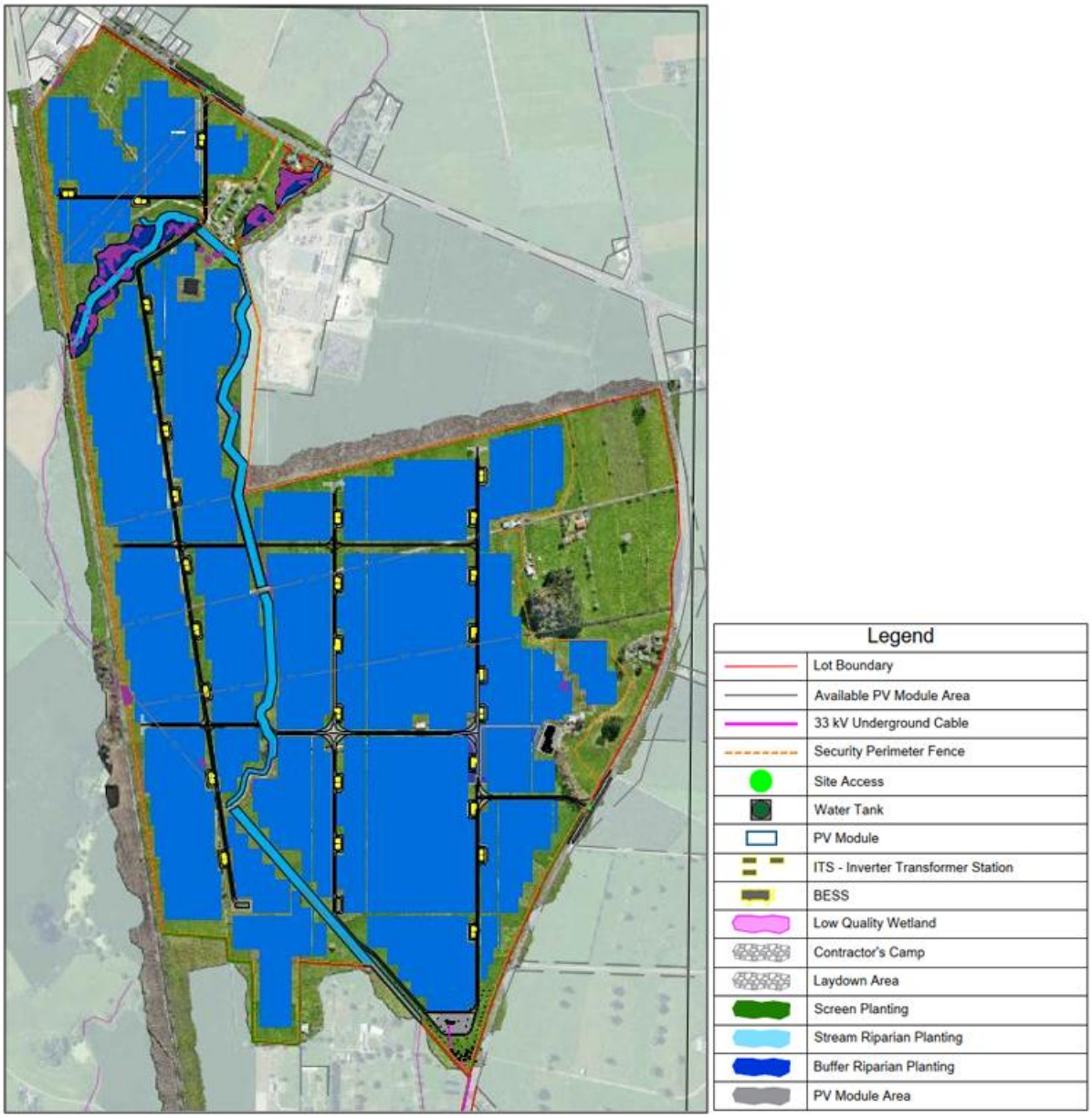
Section	Information required	Paragraph reference in this report
18(1)	The Minister must, for a referral application, consider a report that is prepared and provided by the responsible agency in accordance with this section.	Not applicable to substantive applications – section 18 report is required by section 49.
18(2)(a)	Any relevant iwi authorities and relevant Treaty settlement entities	17-22
18(2)(b)	Any Treaty settlements that relate to land, species of plants or animals, or other resources within the project area	32-35
18(2)(c)	The relevant principles and provisions in those Treaty settlements, including those that relate to the composition of a decision-making body for the purposes of the Resource Management Act 1991	36-56
18(2)(d)	Any recognised negotiation mandates for, or current negotiations for, Treaty settlements that relate to the project area.	23
18(2)(e)	Any court orders or agreements that recognise protected customary rights or customary marine title within the project area.	24, 57
18(2)(f)	Any applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 that seek recognition of customary marine title or protected customary rights within the project area.	24, 57
18(2)(g)	Whether the project area would be within or adjacent to, or the project would directly affect, ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou (and, if so, the relevant provisions of the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019).	25, 57
18(2)(h)	Whether the project area includes any taiāpure-local fisheries, mātaitai reserves, or areas that are subject to bylaws or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996 (and, if so, who the tangata whenua are).	26, 58
18(2)(i)	Whether the project involves an activity that could be the subject of a determination under 23 (and, if so, who the owners of the land are).	27-28
18(2)(j)	If the proposed approvals include an approval described in any of section 42C(4)(a) to (d) (resource consent, certificate of compliance, or designation),	29-30, 59

	(i) iwi authorities and groups that represent hapū that are parties to any relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements. (ii) The relevant principles and provisions in those Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and joint management agreements.	
18(2)(k)	Any other Māori groups with relevant interests.	31
18(2)(l)	A summary of— (i) comments received by the Minister after inviting comments from Māori groups under section 17(1)(d) and (e); (ii) any further information received by the Minister from those groups	Not applicable to substantive applications
18(2)(m)	The responsible agency's advice on whether, due to any of the matters identified in this section, it may be more appropriate to deal with the matters that would be authorised by the proposed approvals under another Act or Acts.	Not applicable to substantive applications
18(3)	In preparing the report required by this section, the responsible agency must consult relevant departments.	60
18(4)	The responsible agency must provide the report to the Minister not later than 20 working days after the date for providing comments under section 17(6).	N/A
18(5)	However, if the Minister requests further information about a referral application under section 20, the time period specified in subsection (4) ceases to run for the period of time specified in the request.	N/A

Attachment 2: Project location maps






Legend
Lot Boundary
Available PV Module Area
33 kV Underground Cable
Security Perimeter Fence
Site Access
Water Tank
PV Module
ITS - Inverter Transformer Station
BESS
Low Quality Wetland
Contractor's Camp
Laydown Area
Screen Planting
Stream Riparian Planting
Buffer Riparian Planting
PV Module Area

Attachment 3: List of relevant Māori groups

Name of group	Type of group (section of Act)	Contact person	Contact email
Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a))	[redacted]	
Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Trust	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a))		
Raukawa Settlement Trust	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a))		
Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))		

Attachment 4: Raukawa statutory acknowledgement provisions – Waihou River and tributaries

Statutory acknowledgement provisions (Raukawa Claims Settlement Act 2014)

Statutory acknowledgement

22 Statutory acknowledgement by the Crown

The Crown acknowledges—

(a) the statements of association for the statutory areas described in Parts 1 and 2 of Schedule 1; and

(b) the statement of association for Te Kohera-Kawakawa Bay statutory area arising through the tupuna Te Kohera.

23 Purposes of statutory acknowledgement

The only purposes of the statutory acknowledgement are to—

(a) require relevant consent authorities, the Environment Court, and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga to have regard to the statutory acknowledgement, in accordance with sections 24 to 26; and

(b) require relevant consent authorities to record the statutory acknowledgement on statutory plans that relate to the statutory areas and to provide summaries of resource consent applications or copies of notices of applications to the trustees, in accordance with sections 27 and 28; and

(c) enable the trustees and any member of Raukawa to cite the statutory acknowledgement as evidence of the association of Raukawa with a statutory area, in accordance with section 29.

Section 23(a): amended, on 20 May 2014, by section 107 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (2014 No 26).

24 Relevant consent authorities to have regard to statutory acknowledgement

(1) This section applies in relation to an application for a resource consent for an activity within, adjacent to, or directly affecting a statutory area.

(2) On and from the effective date, a relevant consent authority must have regard to the statutory acknowledgement relating to the statutory area in deciding, under section 95E of the Resource Management Act 1991, whether the trustees are affected persons in relation to the activity.

(3) Subsection (2) does not limit the obligations of a relevant consent authority under the Resource Management Act 1991.

25 Environment Court to have regard to statutory acknowledgement

(1) This section applies to proceedings in the Environment Court in relation to an application for a resource consent for an activity within, adjacent to, or directly affecting a statutory area.

(2) On and from the effective date, the Environment Court must have regard to the statutory acknowledgement relating to the statutory area in deciding, under section 274 of the Resource Management Act 1991, whether the trustees are

persons with an interest in the proceedings greater than that of the general public.

(3) Subsection (2) does not limit the obligations of the Environment Court under the Resource Management Act 1991.

26 Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and Environment Court to have regard to statutory acknowledgement

(1) If, on or after the effective date, an application is made under section 44, 56, or 61 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 for an authority to undertake an activity that will or may modify or destroy an archaeological site within a statutory area,—

(a) Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, in exercising its powers under section 48, 56, or 62 of that Act in relation to the application, must have regard to the statutory acknowledgement relating to the statutory area; and

(b) the Environment Court, in determining under section 59(1) or 64(1) of that Act any appeal against a decision of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga in relation to the application, must have regard to the statutory acknowledgement relating to the statutory area, including in making a determination as to whether the trustees are persons directly affected by the decision.

(2) In this section, **archaeological site** has the meaning given in section 6 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

Section 26: replaced, on 20 May 2014, by section 107 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (2014 No 26).

27 Recording statutory acknowledgement on statutory plans

(1) On and from the effective date, each relevant consent authority must attach information recording the statutory acknowledgement to all statutory plans that wholly or partly cover a statutory area.

(2) The information attached to a statutory plan must include—

(a) a copy of sections 22 to 26, 28, and 29; and

(b) descriptions of the statutory areas wholly or partly covered by the plan; and

(c) the statement of association for each statutory area.

(3) The attachment of information to a statutory plan under this section is for the purpose of public information only and, unless adopted by the relevant consent authority as part of the statutory plan, the information is not—

(a) part of the statutory plan; or

(b) subject to the provisions of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

28 Provision of summary or notice to trustees

(1) Each relevant consent authority must, for a period of 20 years on and from the effective date, provide the following to the trustees for each resource consent application for an activity within, adjacent to, or directly affecting a statutory area:

(a) if the application is received by the consent authority, a summary of the application; or

(b) if notice of the application is served on the consent authority under section 145(10) of the Resource Management Act 1991, a copy of the notice.

(2) A summary provided under subsection (1)(a) must be the same as would be given to an affected person by limited notification under section 95B of the Resource Management Act 1991 or as may be agreed between the trustees and the relevant consent authority.

(3) The summary must be provided—

(a) as soon as is reasonably practicable after the relevant consent authority receives the application; but

(b) before the relevant consent authority decides under section 95 of the Resource Management Act 1991 whether to notify the application.

(4) A copy of a notice must be provided under subsection (1)(b) not later than 10 working days after the day on which the consent authority receives the notice.

(5) The trustees may, by written notice to a relevant consent authority,—

(a) waive the right to be provided with a summary or copy of a notice under this section; and

(b) state the scope of that waiver and the period it applies for.

(6) This section does not affect the obligation of a relevant consent authority to decide,—

(a) under section 95 of the Resource Management Act 1991, whether to notify an application:

(b) under section 95E of that Act, whether the trustees are affected persons in relation to an activity.

29 Use of statutory acknowledgement

(1) The trustees and any member of Raukawa may, as evidence of the association of Raukawa with a statutory area, cite the statutory acknowledgement that relates to that area in submissions concerning activities within, adjacent to, or directly affecting the statutory area that are made to or before—

(a) the relevant consent authorities; or

(b) the Environment Court; or

(c) Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga; or

(d) the Environmental Protection Authority or a board of inquiry under Part 6AA of the Resource Management Act 1991.

(2) The content of a statement of association is not, by virtue of the statutory acknowledgement, binding as fact on—

(a) the bodies referred to in subsection (1); or

(b) parties to proceedings before those bodies; or

(c) any other person who is entitled to participate in those proceedings.

(3) However, the bodies and persons specified in subsection (2) may take the statutory acknowledgement into account.

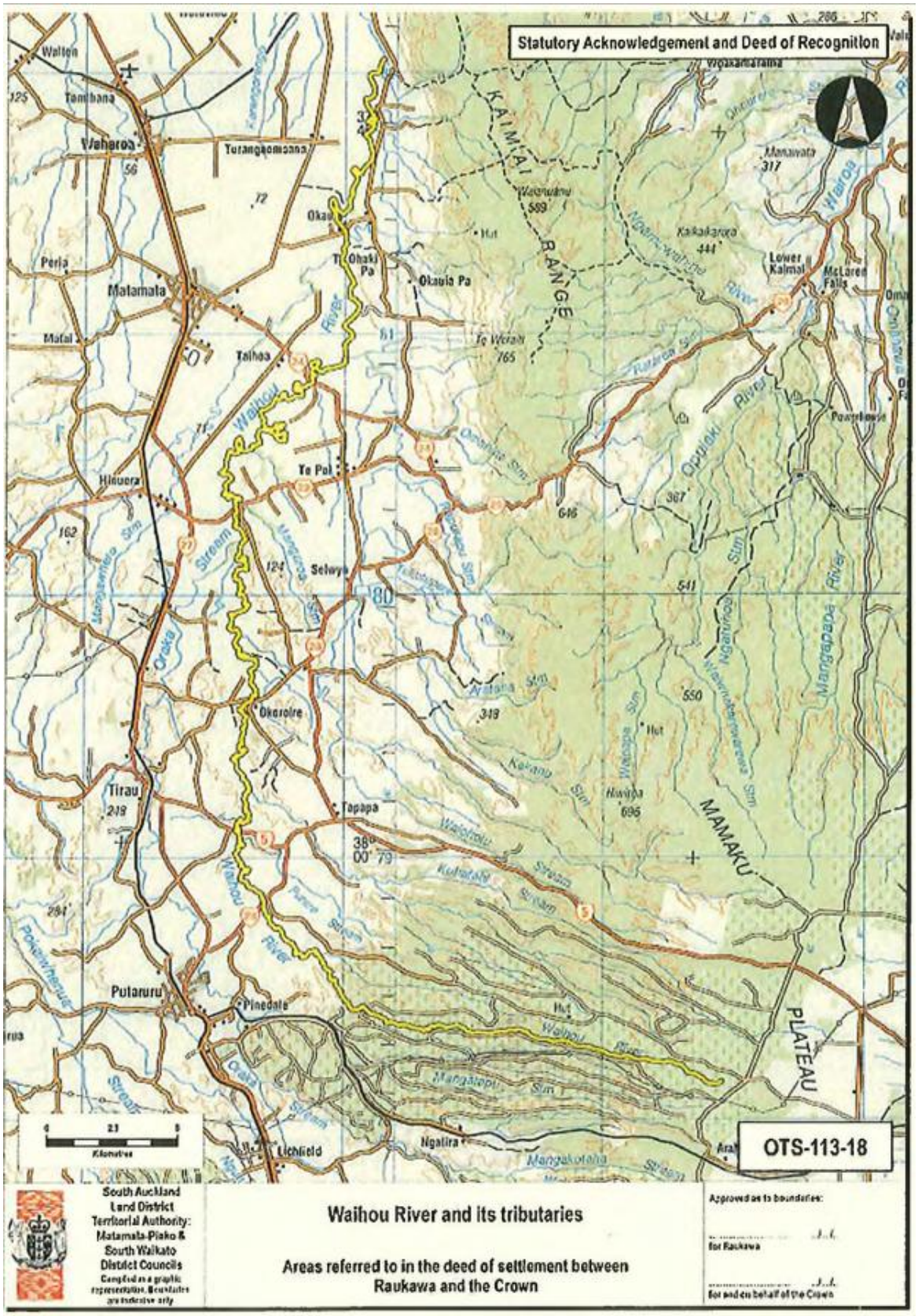
(4) To avoid doubt,—

(a) neither the trustees nor members of Raukawa are precluded from stating that Raukawa has an association with a statutory area that is not described in the statutory acknowledgement; and

(b) the content and existence of the statutory acknowledgement do not limit any statement made.

Section 29(1)(c): replaced, on 20 May 2014, by section 107 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (2014 No 26).

Deed plan for Waihou River and its tributaries statutory area (attachments schedule to deed of settlement)



Excerpts from statements of association (documents schedule to deed of settlement)

2.10: STATEMENT OF ASSOCIATION FOR THE RIVERS AND TRIBUTARIES

Waikato, Waihou and Pūniu Awa and Tributaries

The Waikato, Waihou and Pūniu Awa and tributaries are the veins carrying the lifeblood of Papatūānuku. If events or activities affect the awa, they in turn affect Papatūānuku. The awa hold mana in their own right (spiritual authority and power, or a right to exist in a pristine state for intrinsic reasons) and its life essence or life force is the mauri of the awa. Each awa carries the life force for the Raukawa people; that which affects the awa, affects the people.

The Raukawa association to the Waikato, Waihou and Pūniu Awa stems back to the time of the arrival of the Tainui waka to Aotearoa. The Tainui ancestors, Rakatāura and Kahukeke were the first people to settle in the western interior of the central North Island and were responsible for naming significant landmarks.

…

Waihou River

Raukawa have an association with the Waihou Awa and its tributaries, and in particular, the source of the Waihou and the Waihou Springs. Raukawa acknowledge that other iwi share interests in parts of the Waihou River and its tributaries.

Thirteen generations after the arrivial of the Tainui ancestors, Rakatāura and Kahukeke, the ancestor, Raukawa, was born and spent his first days in the region of the Waihou Awa. The grandchildren of Raukawa returned to this region to defeat another iwi. Since that time Raukawa hapū have maintained their ahikāroa.

For over 600 years, Raukawa have held that the mauri of the Waihou Awa and the mauri of Raukawa are inextricably linked. The Waihou Awa is a taonga to Raukawa. It is a whole and indivisible entity that flows from the punawai (source) of the Waihou to the Blue Springs near Putaruru to Te Puaha o Waihou (the mouth) and includes its water, banks, beds (and all minerals under them), and its streams, waterways, tributaries, lakes, aquatic life, vegetation, flood plains, wetlands, islands, springs, water column, geothermal aspects, airspace and substratum as well as its metaphysical elements.

As tangata whenua within a region which the awa flows, the relationship that Raukawa have with the awa is paramount. It includes the enhancement of tribal mana but also gives rise to the responsibilities to protect the awa, its mana and mauri. These responsibilities are woven within the customary assertion of mana whakahaere, which is encompassed within long established kawa and tikanga.

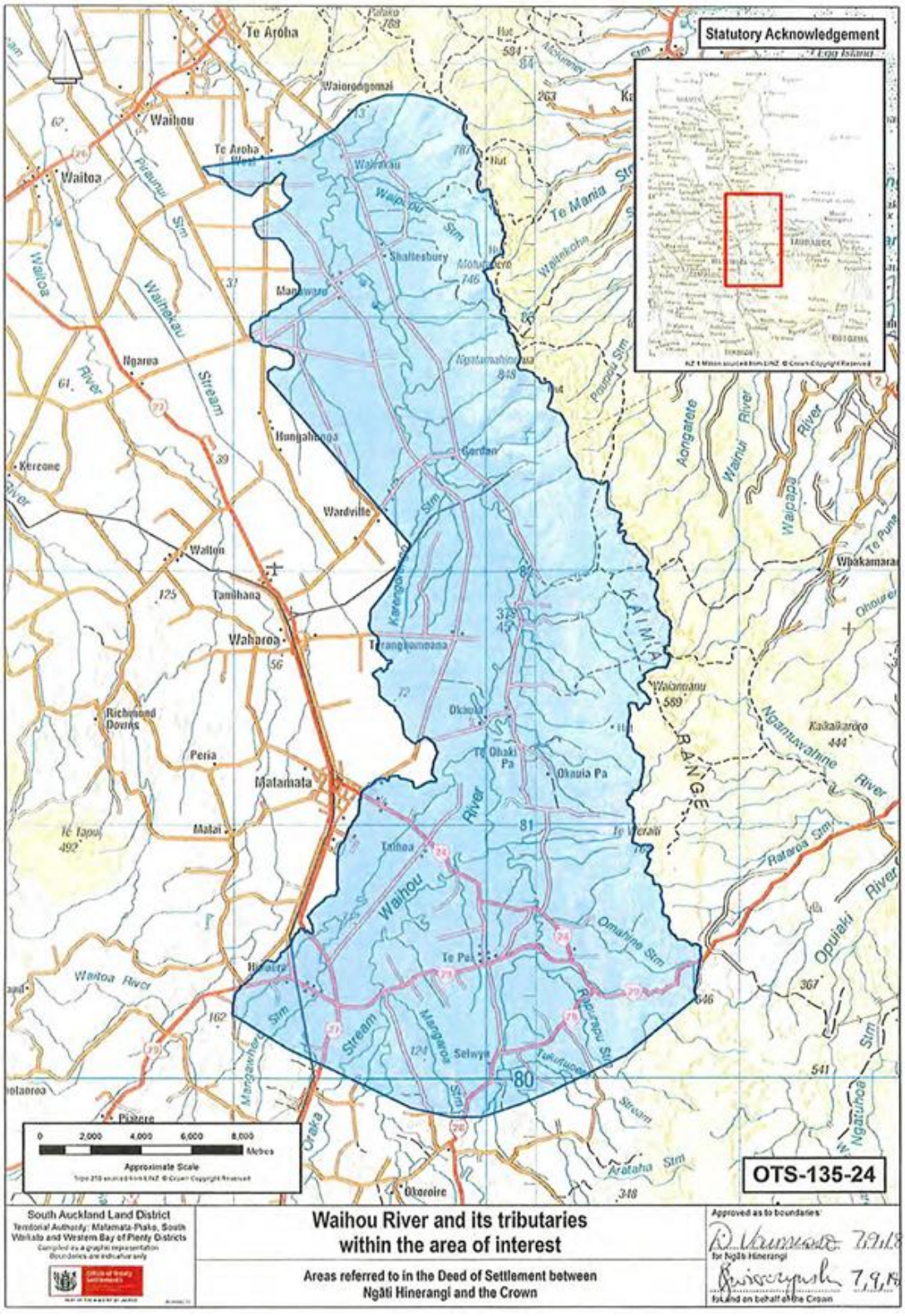
Raukawa continue to exercise customary rights and assert the rights and responsibilities of kaitiakitanga in relation to the Waihou Awa within the Raukawa rohe. The awa has provided a source of spiritual, cultural, social and physical sustenance for the Raukawa people and, in turn, the role of kaitiaki embraces respect and an inter-generational responsibility. Raukawa consider the Waihou Awa to be a boundary marker remembered in the pepeha 'Mai te Wairere ki Maungatautari'

In accordance with the principles of ahikāroa, many Raukawa marae and hapū were located near the Waihou Awa. To the west of the Waihou Springs stand the Ngāti Ahuru marae of Ngātira and Whakaaratamaiti. Also in this area are the remnants of ancient marae and wahi tapu, including Hamareha which is also known as Hamaria where the source of the Waihou Awa is found. To the east of the Waihou Awa stand the Ngāti Tūkorehe and Ngāti Te Rangi marae of Ruapeka and Tāpapa, Ūkaipō marae of Ngāti Kirihika and Ngāti Wehiwehi and Tangata marae. Also in this area once stood the Ngāti Tukorehe pā of Tokopikowhakahau. To the south of the Waihou stands the Ngāti Mōtai and Ngāti Te Apunga marae of Paparaamu. Also in this area is the old pā of Wairerehaurangi and an eel weir called Ruatu, which was used by the hapū of Ngāti Mōtai, Ngāti Tūkorehe, and Ngāti Kirihika.

There are also particular sites of significance associated with the Waihou Awa that are of inestimable importance to Raukawa people. The swamp, Te Mana-o-Kahu, which forms part of the Waihou Awa, was named by Rakatāura following the death of his wife, Kahukeke. One of the four famous niu pole, Te Niu o Tuwharakarara, is located to the north of the Waihou Springs in a village sustained by the spring waters. The Mangaowheo stream, a tributary of the Waihou, includes the Ruataupuku falls, and the eel weir at Kopuaroa. At Te Maire and Iwituaroa on the Waihou River, there were more eel weirs. Other tributaries of the Waihou River including the streams of Waiteariki and Manganui also supplied hapū with tuna (eels) and koura (freshwater crayfish) as well as their daily drinking water supply.

Attachment 5: Ngāti Hinerangi statutory acknowledgement provisions – Waihou River and tributaries

Deed plan for Waihou River and its tributaries statutory area (attachments schedule to deed of settlement)



Excerpt from statements of association (documents schedule to deed of settlement)

Waihou River and its tributaries within the area of interest (as shown on deed plan OTS-135-24)

The Waihou River is the ancestral river of Ngāti Hinerangi. The Waihou River and its tributaries within Te Rohe o Kōperu, the traditional tribal boundaries of Ngāti Hinerangi, are sacred to Ngāti Hinerangi who have occupied the lands in the Matamata region adjacent to the Waihou River for more than 500 years. The renowned Ngāti Hinerangi tohunga, Tāmure, who was the son of Hinerangimarino and Taunga-ki-te-Marangai, married Tūwaewae, the daughter of Kōperu. Tāmure was responsible for maintaining the sacred wairua and spiritual essence of the Waihou River, as well as being the tohunga and kaitiaki of the taniwha who dwelled within

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DOCUMENTS
2: STATEMENTS OF ASSOCIATION

its sacred waters.

On the banks of the Waihou River was the settlement of Huakaramū which was the scene of an attack in earlier times by another tribe over a dispute between a man and a woman and their child. The dispute resulted in the killing of two Ngāti Hinerangi chiefs, Te Moanaikauia and Hou. However, no Ngāti Hinerangi pā or land was taken in the ensuing altercation. Ngāti Hinerangi reacted instantly and raised a war party to avenge the killing of their two chiefs. The war party attacked the pā of the other tribe killing a chief and 30 others. The other tribe never received payment for the deaths of these people.

The Waihou River is of great spiritual, cultural, ancestral, traditional, and historical importance to Ngāti Hinerangi. The evidence of this can be seen by the great number of Ngāti Hinerangi pā sites, papakāinga settlements, urupā, and wāhi tapu located nearby or on the banks of the river. The Waihou River is home to sacred waiariki (geothermal springs) and tīpua mokomoko (reptilian deities). The Waihou River has been a provider of life sustaining fresh water, food resources in the form of birdlife, tuna, freshwater crayfish, and other fish species, and it has provided a plentiful supply of harakeke for clothing and building materials.

The Waihou River has provided a communication system for travel and transport along its waterways to other regions of the Ngāti Hinerangi tribal rohe, helping to strengthen links between Ngāti Hinerangi and their whanaunga along the river. The Waihou River also provided Ngāti Hinerangi with important commercial opportunities to trade with other iwi and hapū who lived along the river. It was also a means of transport in times of war for Ngāti Hinerangi war parties travelling in waka taua in defence of their tribal rohe.

Ngāti Hinerangi have exercised rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga over the Waihou River and its tributaries and waterways, from time immemorial and it plays a central role in the cultural and spiritual identity of Ngāti Hinerangi.