



**Te Mana o Ngāti Kere**

**Ngāti Kere Hapū Authority**

4 Aug, 2021

## **Response to Central Hawke's Bay Proposed District Plan**

The CHB District Plan has been a work in progress over a period of time. Ngāti Kere Hapū Authority has recently come into being and, in taking responsibility for concerns that will affect our people in the years ahead with reference to land use and land development, we make these submissions. Our primary concerns with this District Plan revolve around:

- the recognition of Ngāti Kere as *tangata whenua* in the Pōrangahau rohe
- the recognition and protection of cultural sites of significance
- the need to be able to house hapū members in increasing numbers in Pōrangahau on lands that we own either individually, as a whānau or as a hapū.

### **1. Tangata whenua and Ngāti Kere relationship to the CHBDC**

The Ngāti Kere Hapū Authority is now coordinating hapū affairs that are 'outside of the marae gate' and we are pleased to be presently involved in developing an ongoing, sustainable and productive relationship with CHBDC.

***Amend the listing of Ngā Reo o te Takiwā: Representative Voices in the Tangata Whenua section of the Plan to include 'Ngāti Kere Hapū Authority'.***

In Pōrangahau and the rohe of Ngāti Kere, we recognise the need for ongoing relationship with the CHB District Council. We see, in the CHB region, two main collectives of Māori communities. One is the *coastal group* made up of the Pōrangahau, the Pourēre and the Kairākau hapū communities. The other is that group whose living was historically around *inland water bodies* including Whatumā and Ngā Puna-a-Tara, that is, the small lakes and swamplands that used to line what is now State Highway 2. These are the two hapū and Māori community groupings who are the likely inheritors of the role that is now played by the Taiwhenua o Tamatea. The constituent marae who make up the Tamatea portion of both Heretaunga Tamatea Settlement Trust and Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated will likely remain working as a collective in this rohe for the time being, but mana whenua political representation at CHBDC level needs to develop into a more versatile and responsive structure.

***Amend the Tangata Whenua section to reflect the active development of a co-governance capability at CHBDC and co-governance capacity for mana whenua.***

## **2. Protection of wāhi tapu sites and resource consents**

We understand that in general the Plan develops the ability to register and take note of wāhi tapu sites important to Māori whānau and hapū and that it increases levels of protection around such sites from development. We are very supportive of this and would be keen to develop with CHB a more comprehensive wāhi tapu listing mechanism. We are aware for instance of many sites that demand such protection eg the Matanui site on Pōrangahau 1B4N2 and the Whangaehu Reserve are two that have been raised recently.

But more so, we are concerned with the ability of Māori bodies to be able to vet Resource Consents in an appropriate fashion. We have neither the capability or capacity to do so and we suspect that this has previously been done on an ad hoc basis by good-hearted but inexperienced people or cultural resource consultants whom Māori have had to pay for. Although we understand that CHBDC consults (in a cursory fashion) routinely with mana whenua over resource consents, we are unsure of the CHBDC requirements for cultural impact assessments upon those applying for resource consents.

***We recommend that the Council works with tangata whenua to develop a more effective method for identifying wāhi tapu and updates the list of wāhi tapu sites in the Plan using that method.***

***We recommend that the planning regulations should require that resource consents automatically include a formal cultural impact assessment.***

***We recommend that the CHBDC should actively develop training for tangata whenua around capability in assessment of resource consents and to develop capacity for the same.***

## **3. Ngāti Kere and the development of land for housing**

As urban Māori populations retreat back from COVID-19, from urban pressure and at retirement to settle back onto *whenua tipu* lands, we see the need to be able to house hapū members in increasing numbers in Pōrangahau on lands that we own either individually, as a whānau or as a hapū. We see this as a fundamental right of Māori to be able to return to their *whenua tipu* and contribute more fully to hapū and community life. We expect CHCDC (and other regulatory bodies) to recognise this and actively promote these moves.

***We recommend that the CHBDC Plan recognises in the Tangata Whenua section, the likely population increase of mana whenua returning to their homes areas and states a commitment to planning for the promotion of land development and housing opportunities for this eventually.***

We recognise the enabling provision of the *papakāinga-kaumatua housing* section in the Plan and that there appears to be a clear commitment to make it easier for mana whenua Māori to build on and develop their own lands. We are very supportive of this direction. But we own portions of land of various sizes held in both Māori and European tenure and we need to know that Māori land as such, is not the operative criteria for building, rather that the desire of Māori to build safe and

secure housing where we own or can purchase land is not impeded by the various regulations around the new classes of rural land.

***We recommend that the CHBDC Plan states a commitment to promoting housing opportunities for hapū members across all classes of land.***

We also understand that there are land designations that are intended to *protect sensitive environmental areas* and we are generally supportive of protecting sensitive coastal land – particularly by commercial non-Māori developments. We are however, worried that residual lands owned by Māori that are labelled sensitive under this provision may prevent development by ourselves. In particular, we are thinking of Puketauhinu Trust land at the Pōrangahau River mouth and Blackhead Village site at Parimahu which we own and may wish to develop. We have had discussions with planners and executives at CHBDC who have exhorted us to believe that the papakainga-kaumatua housing section will ensure that the development of housing for Māori is unlikely to be impeded. We therefore conclude that our lack of faith in the provisions of the Plan is likely to be based on limited understanding of ‘planning’ and its regulations, and insufficient engagement by the Council to ‘bring us on board;.

***We recommend that CHBDC launch an intensive communication and with mana whenua of Tamatea around land and housing development.***

We are pleased to be able to speak to our submission at the appropriate time.

Nā mātau o Te Mana o Ngāti Kere



David Tipene-Leach