

# Your Comment on the Kapuni Green Hydrogen Project

All sections of this form with an asterisk (\*) are mandatory.

## 1. Contact Details

Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.

<b>Organisation name (if relevant)</b>	Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust		
<b>*First name</b>	Dion		
<b>*Last name</b>	Luke		
<b>Postal address</b>	PO Box 474, Te Hāwera 4610, Taranaki		
<b>*Home phone / Mobile phone</b>	██████████	<b>*Work phone</b>	██████████
<b>*Email (a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you)</b>	dion@ngaruahine.iwi.nz		

## 2. \*We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment about this application

<b>X</b>	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	<input type="checkbox"/>	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct
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## 3. Please provide your comments on this application

If you need more space, please attach additional pages. Please include your name, page numbers and the project name on the additional pages

There have been serious misgivings about the entire fast track consenting process under which this application is being processed. This has meant past and current Treaty of Waitangi Claims settlements are in effect – ignored. This is seen as a slap in the face to all those who fought with dignity and patience to secure settlement provisions capable of advancing the cultural, social, environmental, and economic wellbeing of Ngāruahine. A common theme we have encountered during the consultation process is the comfort with which non-Māori claim to understand, and decide, what is best for Ngāruahine. This includes:

- The appropriation of te reo by business organisations;
- The development of climate change strategies and solutions on our behalf;
- an inadequate level of cultural awareness in regional strategies.

Roadmaps, strategies and action plans such as H2 Taranaki and Tapuae Roa perpetuate the marginalisation of tangata whenua while continuing to extract the life and natural resources out of districts like South Taranaki.

Te Korowai has identified relatively early the main issue with the application was the wind turbines. In particular, their location and impact on the relationship of Ngāruahine with Taranaki Maunga. This relationship may seem quite esoteric to those from outside the region. While it is our role to ensure this connection is known, understood, and protected, we are also mindful of the risk of wind turbines becoming an accepted activity. This would in turn have a negative impact on our whanaunga Iwi to the north (Taranaki Iwi) and south (Ngāti Ruanui and Ngaa Rauru).

One of our main policies for the environment is to support the move away from fossil fuels to renewable energy. This makes it important for any position we take to be clear and purposeful. Te Korowai acknowledges the opportunities to reduce climate change emissions which are central to the project. However, it became apparent throughout consultation that there had been no alternatives identified in regard to the location of the wind turbines. The recent *Tauranga Environmental Protection Society v Tauranga City Council* and *TTR* cases, show that Treaty of Waitangi environmental law is considered by our courts to a far higher degree than current legislation and planning processes.

Te Korowai has found consultation and engagement with the applicant obliging and conducted earnestly. It is not clear whether they have fully understood the importance of the Cultural Landscape to our Ngāruahine identity, but they have attempted to address our concerns. Unfortunately, this amounted to tinkering with turbine angles and configurations rather than acknowledging that need to position the turbines in alternative locations. One of the mitigation measures offered was an opportunity to invest in Hiringa. Because there is no clear consensus from our 6 Hapū to support the project, we were unable to accept this offer. The views of Hapū ranged from total support to neutral and total opposition.

Te Korowai notes the following from the application submitted by the Hiringa:

**Alternative Site Plan:** Te Korowai has asked specifically for an Alternative Site Plan to be developed in consultation with Ngāti Manuhiakai and Ngāti Tū. This was due to our concern over the lack of information provided by the applicant as to the effects of scaling up or extending the project if there was an increase in demand for hydrogen. We acknowledge the applicants need to ensure hydrogen production is cost effective in order to compete with the fossil fuels currently used by heavy transport vehicles. However, if the project is to be ongoing, we expect the turbines to be relocated to an alternative site coastward of SH45 once their useful life has been reached.

**Relationship Agreement:** Hiringa has offered multiple mitigation measures in a relationship agreement but due to the short timeframes involved with the fast track process, our Board has not yet sighted the document let alone had time to assess it and agree to the terms. Te Korowai will only support the application if our Board or delegated authority agrees and signs the relationship agreement developed during consultation with the applicant.

We note that both of these important outcomes of consultation are missing from Appendix O of the AEE documents. Our view on the Crown's obligations in this process have been made clear in our CIA. We expect the decision made by this panel to reflect the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and to foster mutual trust and respect between the Crown and Ngāruahine.