

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED ON BEHALF OF THE GORE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

UNDER The Resource Management Act
1991

IN THE MATTER of the proposed Gore District Plan

AND

IN THE MATTER of submissions by Hokonui
Rūnanga Inc in relation to Hearing
Stream 1

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF DR LYNDA MURCHISON
ON BEHALF OF HOKONUI RUNANGA INC**

21st May 2024

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Lynda Marion Weastell Murchison.
2. I hold the following relevant qualifications:
 - PhD in Environmental Policy and Planning from the University of Canterbury
 - MA (hons) in Geography from the University of Canterbury
 - Certificate of Proficiency in Resource Management Law (LAWS 304) from the University of Canterbury
 - Certificate of Proficiency in Advanced Urban, Regional and Resource Planning (ERST 604) from Lincoln University
 - Full membership of the New Zealand Planning Institute (since 1999)
 - Hearing Commissioner Accreditation
3. I work as a consultant planner. I am also an adjunct lecturer at Lincoln University.
4. I have worked for over 25 years in environmental policy and planning in New Zealand, holding senior planning and managerial positions with district councils, Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury), iwi authorities and in private consultancy. I have worked for the last 12 years as an environmental planning advisor and witness for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and papatipu rūnanga.
5. My planning experience includes drafting regional policy statements and regional and district plans, processing resource consent applications for both district and regional councils, and preparing resource consent applications and plan change requests for the private sector.
6. Throughout my career, I have worked across a broad range of environmental issues including freshwater, soils and contaminated land, climate change and natural hazards, air quality, coastal marine environments, indigenous biodiversity, biosecurity and pest management, rural land use including farming, mining and forestry, and urban planning.
7. I have a particular interest and experience working at the interface of environmental management grounded in mātauranga and tikanga frameworks and statutory environmental planning and have been responsible for several 'firsts' in this area, including:
 - The use of Wahi Tupuna – cultural landscapes in a regional freshwater plan; and
 - Securing a mahinga kai allocation within the Waitaki Catchment.
8. Currently, my contract work is largely, though not exclusively, for Ngāi Tahu entities, including Hokonui Rūnanga Inc and their environmental company

Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses

9. I have read the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses contained in the Environment Court of New Zealand Practice Note (2023) and I agree to comply with it. I confirm that the issues addressed in this statement of evidence are within my area of expertise except where I state that I am relying on information provided by another party. I have not knowingly omitted to consider any material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions expressed.

SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

10. I have been asked to give evidence on the following matters:
- (i) The status of Hokonui Runanga Inc as the representative of Ngāi Tahu mana whenua;
 - (ii) The role of Hokonui Rūnanga Inc in preparation of the proposed Gore District Plan; and
 - (iii) The submissions of Hokonui Rūnanga Inc on the proposed Gore District Plan, in particular those matters addressed as part of Hearing Stream 1 – Introduction, General Provisions, and Urban Form and Development.
11. I understand Hokonui Rūnanga Inc will provide a more comprehensive suite of evidence on the Mana Whenua Chapter and other sections of the plan at later hearings.
12. I am familiar with the proposed Gore District Plan, the submissions of Hokonui Rūnanga Inc and the s42A report prepared by Mr Heale of The Property Group.

TE RŪNANGA O NAGI TAHU AND HOKONUI RŪNANGA INC

13. Ngāi Tahu means ‘the people of Tahu’ - those who can trace their ancestry to the eponymous ancestor Tahu Potiki. Ngāi Tahu migrated south from the East Coast of Te Ika a Maui/ North Island and were mana whenua in Te Wai Pounamu/South Island by the time of the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi in 1840.
14. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (Te Rūnanga) is an entity established under the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996. It is the collective of 18 papātipu rūnanga who are, in turn, the modern assemblages that represent the whānau and hapū who hold mana whenua over the Ngāi Tahu takiwā.
15. The term mana whenua is defined in s2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 as “... *customary authority exercised by an iwi or hapu in an identified area.*”

16. Mana whenua also refers to the people who hold customary authority over an area. Mana whenua status is defined by tradition and whakapapa; and is traceable and verifiable.
17. The takiwā of Ngāi Tahu whānui is described in s4 of the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996. It encompasses all of Te Wai Pounamu from Te Parinui o Whiti (White Bluffs) and Te Rae o Kahurangi (Kahurangi Point) south, and includes Rakiura (Stewart Island) and the sub-Antarctic Islands.
18. The takiwā of each papātipu rūnanga is described in the Ngāi Tahu Declaration of Membership Order 2001. The takiwā of Hokonui Rūnanga is described as, *“centres on the Hokonui region and includes a shared interest in the lakes and mountains between Whakatipu-Waitai and Tawhitarere with other Murihiku Rūnanga and those located from Waihemo southwards.”*
19. Te Rūnanga is recognised for all purposes as the representative of Ngāi Tahu whānui under s15 of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996. However, in developing a position on any matter, Te Rūnanga: is required to consult with papatipu rūnanga and any hapū; and cannot act in a manner that prejudices or discriminates against any papatipu rūnanga or hapū unless it believes it is in the best interests of Ngāi Tahu whānui to do so.
20. In practice, Te Rūnanga defers to and supports the position of papatipu rūnanga in matters of local governance and interest. To that end the interests of Ngāi Tahu mana whenua in the Hokonui Region, including Gore District are represented by Hokonui Rūnanga Inc.
21. The purpose of Hokonui Rūnanga Inc is to provide for the wellbeing of members through the guidance and management of members’ needs; encompassing spiritual, cultural, education, social, and economic affairs within a framework of te taiao/natural environment. In addition, Hokonui Rūnanga Inc exists to ensure a safe and secure future for following generations.

HOKONUI RŪNANGA INC IN PROPOSED GORE DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW

22. In accordance with best planning practice, Hokonui Rūnanga Inc was invited by Gore District Council to participate in the proposed Gore District Plan review process, as the representative of Ngāi Tahu mana whenua within Gore District.
23. Hokonui Rūnanga Inc engaged the services of a planner, Courtney Bennett who was involved in drafting the proposed plan. The rūnanga also had a governance representative, Mrs Robyn Hellier, on the Gore District Plan Sub-Committee.
24. I provided some feedback to Gore District Council on the drafting of provisions for indigenous biodiversity and outstanding natural features and landscapes. I was not

involved in other aspects of the preparation of the proposed plan.

25. Once a proposed plan is notified, the only parties who have legal status in proceedings are submitters and the planning authority. Hence, Hokonui Rūnanga Inc has made submissions on this proposed Gore District Plan.

SUBMISSION ON INTRODUCTION, GENERAL PROVISIONS AND URBAN FORM AND DEVELOPMENT

26. As noted in paragraph 137 of the s42A Report, Hokonui Rūnanga Inc has submitted on all provisions of the plan and planning maps. The submission states that the rūnanga supports the provisions in the proposed plan and planning maps as notified except where it has sought specific amendments as set out in the submission.
27. Hokonui Runanga Inc has also made further submissions on some submissions that have requested new provisions not included in the proposed plan as notified.
28. In relation to Hearing Stream 1, Hokonui Rūnanga Inc made a submission (S139.041) requesting an amendment to UFD-01 which is addressed at paragraphs 305 and 316 of the s42A Report.
29. Hokonui Rūnanga Inc also made further submissions: FS20.029 which is addressed at paragraph 277 of the S42A Report; and F20.030 which is addressed at paragraph 287.
30. I concur with the recommendations made in the s42A Report for the reasons set out in the s42A Report.

CONCLUSIONS

31. Hokonui Rūnanga Inc is one of 18 papatipu rūnanga who collectively form Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and is the modern assemblage representing Ngāi Tahu whānui within Gore District.
32. Hokonui Rūnanga Inc has made submissions and further submissions on the proposed Gore District Plan, including supporting all provisions in the proposed plan as notified except where specific amendments have been requested.
33. While the bulk of Hokonui Rūnanga Inc's interest will be on provisions in later chapters, Hearing Stream 1 includes matters of interest to Hokonui Rūnanga Inc, including three matters where it has requested or supported amendments to the proposed Gore District Plan.
34. In my view, the recommendations of the S42A Reporting Officer on those three submission points, and on the matter raised in Hearing Stream 1 generally, are appropriate.



Lynda Murchison

21st May 2024