Tabled at Hearing Wednesday 20 April 2016

**BEFORE THE CANTERBURY REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**UNDER** the Resource Management Act 1991.

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** Proposed Plan Change 6 (Wairewa) to the partially operative Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan

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**SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE OF IAEAN J. CRANWELL**
**on behalf of**
**WAIREWA RŪNANGA INCORPORATED AND TE RŪNANGA O NGĀI TAHU**

**19th APRIL 2016**

## INTRODUCTION

1. Tēnā koutou katoa. My name is Iaean Cranwell. I whakapapa to the Kāti Irakehu and Kāti Makō hapū of Kāi Tahu. I have been the leader of the Cultural Heritage and Identity Portfolio for Wairewa Rūnanga for 15 years and team leader for the Natural Resources portfolio for 12 years. I have previously worked for Takuahi Research & Development Ltd, which was a charitable environmental research company for Wairewa Rūnanga Incorporated Society. I am a Tangata Tiaki for Wairewa Rūnanga for Te Roto o Wairewa, Te Kaio Mātaitai and the Wairewa Mātaitai. I have also been the Wairewa representative on the CWMS Banks Peninsula Zone Committee from inception.

### Mahika Kai and Fisheries

2. Mahika kai has always been a fundamental aspect of Kāi Tahu existence. Records indicate that in the 1880s there were between 2000 and 3000 food gathering places of significance. Traditionally the Wairewa mahika kai resources were regarded as one the central food baskets of Kāi Tahu in the Canterbury region, but this is no longer the case. Tuna have been a major source of mahika kai at Wairewa and we have persisted with the cultural practice of harvesting tuna for centuries.

### Lake sedimentation and previous forms

3. Te Roto o Wairewa has not always been a shallow fresh water lake. Changing sea levels, growth of Kaitōrete Spit and changing land use in the catchment have all contributed to alterations in the lake form. The sedimentation has increased due to native deforestation, wetland drainage, pest and weed incursion, and the intensification of land use. The sediment entering the lake from the Wairewa catchment is naturally high in phosphorus which is believed to drive cyanobacteria blooms.

### Water quality of the lake

4. The increase in nutrients causes severe problems in the summer with algal blooms resulting in Nodularia R, a cyanotoxin that is deadly to humans, livestock and pets. No statutory agencies involved in the lake have suggested or implemented any initiatives to rectify this situation.

**Water quantity**

5. The Ōkana and Ōkuti Rivers flow into Te Roto o Wairewa and have important biodiversity values. Taking from these two rivers is a permitted activity, requiring no consent. Consequently, there is no way to know where water is being extracted from, how much water is being extracted or how it is being used.

**Tuna Population Declining**

6. Te Roto o Wairewa and the inflows have particular value to the Wairewa Rūnanga as a customary eel fishery. Over the years, fishers have commented on the lower numbers during the migration. The catch rate has still been the same, but fewer runs have been seen.

**Opening of Lake**

7. The lake is currently opened mechanically by diggers; a regime that is unacceptable to Wairewa Rūnanga and Kāi Tahu. Due to the increasing barrier beach at Kaitōrete Spit, the young Elver have been unable to enter the lake in the quantities required to sustain the fishery. The nutrient signature that for centuries flowed into the ocean and acted like a beacon to attract the Elver back is absent for the same reasons.

**Permanent Opening**

8. In 2008 Resource management consents were granted to Wairewa Rūnanga to undertake experimental work over a 5 year period in regards to permanently opening the lake via a canal to the sea by the cliffs with the opening protected by a rock groyne structure. The Rūnanga and CCC are now working together on a Joint Consent for the opening of the lake, which has just been granted.

**Mahika Kai Cultural Park**

9. As part of a vision to establish a Mahinga Kai Cultural Park, Wairewa Rūnanga have begun the rehabilitation of Wairewa, its tributaries and mahika kai. It includes Mātaitai that have been strategically placed to protect our interests once the fishery returns. Improvements have already occurred. During the canal opening in October 2011 good quantities of inaka were caught in our canal. In addition, copious amounts of krill phytoplankton (fish food) were also caught in the fishers' nets.

**CWMS Banks Peninsula Zone Committee**

10. The CWMS Banks Peninsula Zone Committee works collaboratively to develop effective water management solutions which align with what the local community wants. Through the use of controlled openings and closings of the lake to the sea (at Birdlings Flat) the lake has been able to be kept at a higher, more stable level over the last three summers.

**ZIP**

11. The ZIP identifies many of the issues and this has evolved through a collaborative process involving various stakeholders, community representatives and Wairewa Rūnanga. The ZIP recommends – *"Wairewa Rūnanga to be recognised as the leader in the restoration and management of Te Roto O Wairewa, resolving issues in partnership with agencies and community."* Manawhenua cannot be excluded or not considered in any matters that affect Te Roto o Wairewa and the wider cultural landscape.

**Conclusion**

12. For Wairewa Rūnanga, water is an essential ingredient of life both physically and spiritually. It is a cultural taoka left by our tūpuna (ancestors) for the life sustaining use by us, their descendants, and thus we have the responsibility to protect it. We are solution focused, pragmatic and open to alternative options for the restoration of the lake and the protection of our waterways and mahika kai.

Kā mihi

Signed by:

**Iaean J. Cranwell**
**19 April 2016**