

TE HAPŪ O NGĀTI WHEKE INCORPORATED

Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc. response to Environment Canterbury draft Annual Plan 2019/20

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Environment Canterbury Annual Plan 2019/20.
- 1.2 Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc would like to acknowledge Environment Canterbury for the opportunity to make comments on this issue. Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc is deeply invested in the future of Canterbury – particularly their home of Whakaraupō and the wider Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula – and the many taonga tuku iho within it. Their key aspiration is to ensure that these taonga are managed “mō tatou, ā, mō kā uri a muri ake nei” (for us all and our children after us).
- 1.3 Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc. support the intention of draft Annual Plan 2019/20, and are particularly in support of its commitment to the Pest Free Banks Peninsula (including Port Hills) / Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Initiative.
- 1.4 However, there are concerns around some other issues. Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc has concerns regarding:
 - Public transport and the funding for its provision to residents of Rāpaki
 - The missing recognition of Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour

2. TE HAPŪ O NGĀTI WHEKE

3. INC

- 2.1 This response is made on behalf of Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc in relation to the draft Annual Plan 2019/20 produced by Environment Canterbury
- 2.2 Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc is one of the 18 papatipu rūnanga that make up Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc is the papatipu rūnanga that represents Ngāti Wheke, the hapū with mana whenua mana moana status over Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour and its surrounding lands. Ngāti Wheke have held mana whenua mana moana in their takiwā since the early 18th century when their ancestor, Te Rakiwhakaputa, cast his rāpaki (waist mat) upon the sands at Te Rāpaki o Te Rakiwhakaputa (now known as Rāpaki) and claimed this harbour for his descendants. Through war, intermarriage, and continual occupation, these home fires have stayed burning in Whakaraupō for upwards of 12 generations to the present day.
- 2.3 There are currently over 9,000 members of Ngāti Wheke whose names are registered with the papatipu rūnanga. Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc therefore notes that these comments should not be treated as a single comment, but should be afforded an appropriate status and weight that recognises the tribal collective that it represents.

3.4 Notwithstanding its status as the representative voice of Ngāti Wheke, Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc accepts and respects the right of individual papatipu rūnanga members to make their own submissions.

3. TE HAPŪ O NGĀTI WHEKE INC POSITION

3.1 Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc support the draft Annual Plan 2019/20 in principle, however some specific amendments and additions are sought.

3.2 Public Transport

Amendments to the funding allocation for public transport and its connections to the settlement of Rāpaki is sought. MR875 (the Rāpaki Māori reserve) was established in 1886 as a kāinga nohoanga for descendants of Ngāti Wheke. Over the intervening years the effects of colonisation have resulted in Ngāti Wheke being consolidated upon this reserve. The settlement of Rāpaki has now become the base for the hapū and contains Rāpaki Marae, the old Rāpaki church and schoolhouse, family homes, Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc offices, and provides access to the Rāpaki mātaihau where much of Ngāti Wheke mahinga kai activities are undertaken. Many Ngāti Wheke descendants still live on their whānau lands at Rāpaki, including a large proportion of kaumātua. Ngāti Wheke also aspires for papakāinga to be established at Rāpaki which will bring more families and children back to the area.

3.3 The Rāpaki bus service has, in the past, been a lifeline to this community – particularly children and the elderly (kaumātua). Previously this bus ran frequently between Rāpaki and Eastgate which provided an important link for elderly to access healthcare, libraries and groceries which can all be found at Eastgate. It was also a valuable link for Rāpaki children who predominantly attend Te Pā o Rākaihautū or Linwood College (both walking distance from Eastgate).

3.4 The recent changes to this service have effectively cut off this link for these two vulnerable groups. The current schedule does not make the bus a viable option for commuting school children, and the new route makes the bus a less practical option for kaumātua. The latter point is of extreme importance, as for many kaumātua this is their only form of transport.

3.5 Ngāti Wheke are disproportionately impacted by the changes to this bus route, and it is impacting their ability to live upon their lands and maintain their ahi kā at Rāpaki. It is also a roadblock to more whānau members moving back to their ancestral lands at Rāpaki (particularly families with children), which deprives whānau from connecting to their culture and whakapapa. This disproportional impact can also be seen as being in conflict with the intent of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, which ensures Māori the same rights and privileges as all other New Zealanders. By isolating this Māori reserve, Ngāti Wheke in particular are not being afforded the same access to public transport as the wider population of Christchurch.

3.6 Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke understand that there are financial constraints for the Council for the previous Rāpaki bus service. However, they still request that funds are made available to rethink and redesign this bus route. Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke considers a peak service to and from Eastgate appropriate, with half hourly services during commuting times (i.e. 7.30-

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10.30am from Rāpaki, 2.30-5.30pm from Eastgate), and a reduced frequency during the off-peak times.

3.7 Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour

Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke are also disappointed with the lack of recognition for the Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Plan, of which Environment Canterbury is a Partner. This plan is of utmost importance to Ngāti Wheke and the wider community of Whakaraupō. In these early years of the Whaka-Ora Plan it is critical that the community sees the various partners taking this plan seriously – lest it be forgotten as yet another plan lost on a shelf. Ngāti Wheke refuse to allow this to happen and strongly request that Environment Canterbury add reference to Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour into their annual plan as a show of their commitment to the future of this plan and the communities that are watching.

3.8 Pest Free Banks Peninsula

Finally, Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc support the submission of the Pest Free Banks Peninsula Working Group. The Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour plan highlights pest eradication and support of Predator Free 2025 as actions that support the vision of this plan. Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula is a biodiversity hotspot with both endemic and threatened species, including mahinga kai species. Like most other biodiversity programmes, there will also be economic, social and cultural benefits to eradicating pests. With the Peninsula being part of greater Christchurch, it provides opportunities for the urban population to be involved in protecting this unique biodiversity. Environment Canterbury's support of this programme is (albeit unacknowledged) a tangible way that they can show their support for the actions within the Whaka-Ora healthy Harbour plan.

4. Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Nāhaku noa nā,

Manaia Rehu



Chair

Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc.

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