

**BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT HEARINGS
PANEL**

**I MUA NGĀ KAIKŌMIHANA MOTUHAKE I TE
KAUNIHERA O TE HIKU O TE IKA**

UNDER

the Resource Management Act
1991 (“**RMA**”)

IN THE MATTER OF

the Proposed Far North District
Plan (“**PDP**”) – Hearing 10 – Māori
Purpose & Treaty Settlement Land
Overlay.

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF TIPENE KAPA-KINGI ON BEHALF OF TE AUPŌURI

CORPORATE

11 MARCH 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 My full name is Tipene Kapa-Kingi. I hold the position of Pou Whakahaere (CEO) at Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri which is the Post Settlement Group Entity (“**PSGE**”) and parent entity of Te Aupōuri Commercial Development Ltd (“**TACDL**”), Te Aupōuri Fisheries Management Ltd (“**TAFML**”) and Te Aupōuri Iwi Development Trust (“**TAIDT**”). Collectively, these entities represent the interests of Te Aupōuri Iwi on behalf of its people and is henceforth referred to as (“**Te Aupōuri**”).

1.2 I have held this role since July 2024. Previously, I was the Investment Manager at TACDL and TAFML. In my current role, I am responsible for overseeing the operation functions of Te Rūnanga and Te Aupōuri’s subsidiaries and working alongside the trust boards of the respective entities.

1.3 My involvement in the PDP has involved presenting lay evidence at Hearing 1 and having overall oversight of Te Aupōuri’s participation in the PDP process more generally. I was not involved in preparing the submission, as this was prior to my employment.

Qualifications and experience

1.4 I hold a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Te Reo Māori from Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington.

- 1.5 I have 7 years of experience in financial, asset management, and corporate services roles with Te Aupōuri and from previous employers (KPMG, Te Amokura Consultants & NZ Trade & Enterprise).

Purpose and scope of evidence

- 1.6 This evidence provides context for Te Aupōuri’s submissions on the Far North District Council’s (**Council**) PDP. My evidence will summarise the key aspects of, and drivers for Te Aupōuri’s participation in the PDP process and outline our role and function as PSGE.
- 1.7 My evidence should be read in conjunction with the evidence of Ms Makarena Dalton, Te Aupōuri’s independent planning consultant, who addresses the relevant planning matters associated with Te Aupōuri’s original submission (#339) and further submission (#FS409).
- 1.8 My evidence will address the following topics:
- (a) Provide information of who we are as te iwi o Te Aupōuri and describe the organisational structure of a PSGE;
 - (b) highlight Te Aupōuri’s broad and wide-ranging role in delivering programmes and supporting Te Aupōuri whānau;
 - (c) an overview of Te Aupōuri’s landholdings returned as commercial and cultural redress under the Te Aupōuri Claims Settlement Act 2015;
 - (d) a summary of Te Aupōuri’s strategic pou and the various activities delivered under these strategic directions; and
 - (e) the overall need to include enabling provisions in the PDP for Te Aupōuri to effectively and efficiently use and develop their land to support the cultural, social and economic wellbeing of Te Aupōuri people, and oranga of the environment.

Involvement With PDP on Behalf of Te Aupōuri

- 1.9 I have been aware of and involved (alongside other staff within Te Aupōuri) with the PDP since early 2024. More recently I have been involved with confirming Te Aupōuri’s position and priorities regarding Hearing Stream’s 1 and 4, in relation to the Strategic Direction, and Natural Environments topic. I presented a lay submission on behalf of

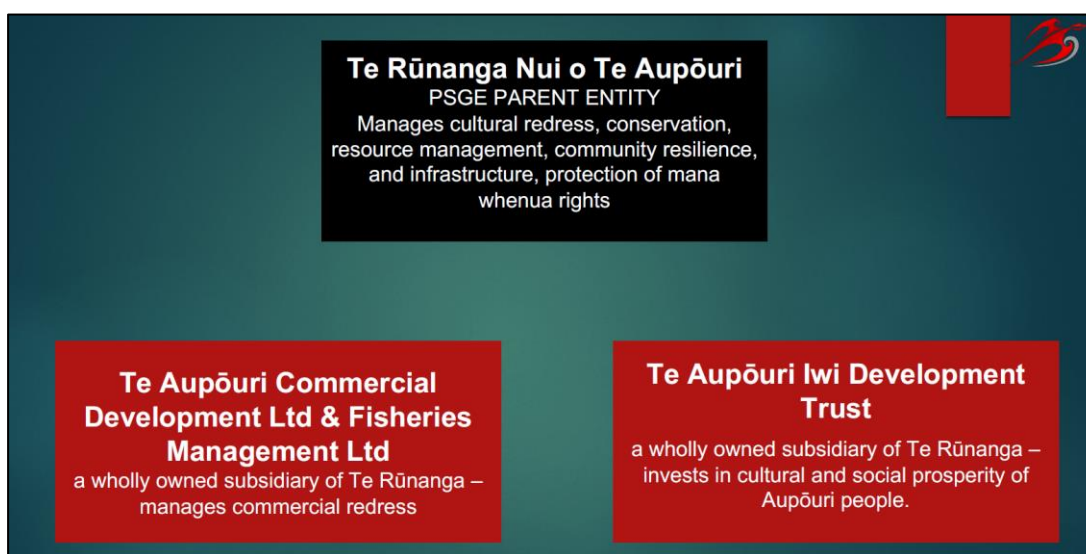
Te Aupōuri at Hearing 1 and was present at Hearing 4 for the presentations of Ms Dalton’s planning evidence.

- 1.10 In preparing this statement on behalf of Te Aupōuri, I confirm that I have reviewed the Section 42A Hearing Reports (“s42A”) for the Treaty Settlement Land topic, and the statement of planning evidence of Ms Dalton.

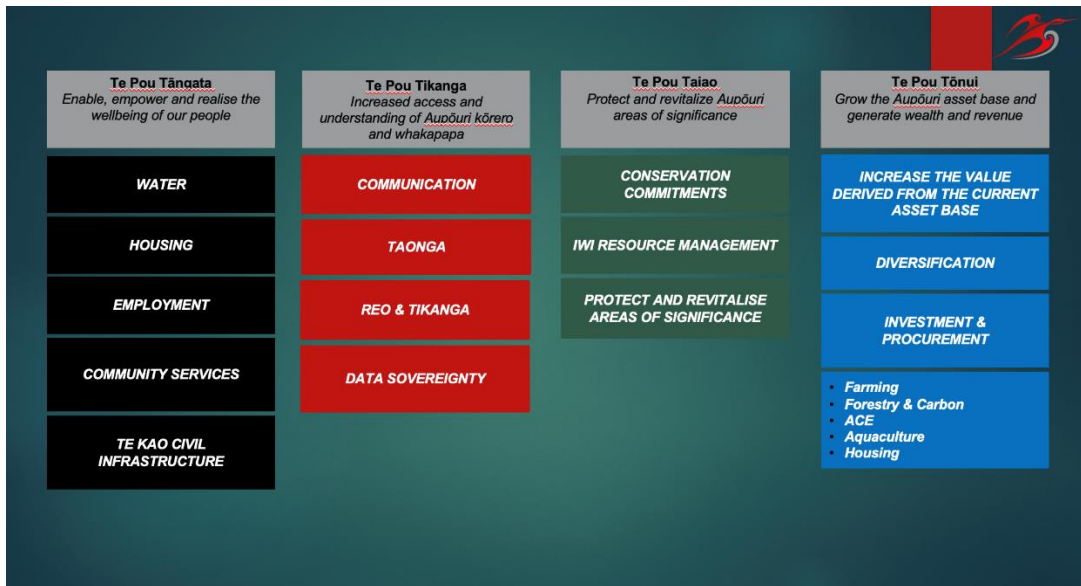
2. TE AUPŌURI

About Te Aupōuri

- 2.1 Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri represents and includes all descendants of Te Ikanui and his two wives, Tihe and Kōhine. The total population of Te Aupōuri is approximately 14,000. We are signatories of both He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi through our tupuna Te Māhia, Paraone Ngaruhe and Te Wiki Taitimu.
- 2.2 The high-level structure of Aupōuri group is as follows:



2.3 The strategic priorities of the Aupōuri group are:



2.4 Te Aupōuri signed a Deed of Settlement on 28 January 2012 with the Crown and, a Deed to Amend was signed on 14 December 2013, and a second Deed to Amend was signed on 16 December 2015. Our settlement was entrenched in law under the Te Aupōuri Claims Settlement Act 2015. The Treaty Settlement included both cultural and commercial redress with approximately 4,810ha of land returned which is administered by our PSGE's. Our organisational structure and functions are described below:

- (a) Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri (“**Te Rūnanga**”) – is the parent entity that manages their cultural redress, conservation, resource management, community resilience, infrastructure and manages the protection of their rights as mana whenua.
- (b) Te Aupōuri Commercial Development Ltd (“**TACDL**”) & Te Aupōuri Fisheries Management Ltd (“**TAFML**”) are a wholly owned subsidiary of Te Rūnanga and is charged with managing their commercial redress. The key objective of TACDL is to generate sustainable returns, grow/enhance the value of capital assets and generate adequate cash flow required to meet the distribution and operational requirements of the Rūnanga with an acceptable risk profile.
- (c) Te Aupōuri Iwi Development Trust (“**TAIDT**”) – is a wholly owned subsidiary of Te Rūnanga and invests in the cultural and social prosperity of Aupōuri people.

TAIDT delivers funding support for the advancement of its people in education, spiritual, economic, social and cultural wellbeing.

- 2.5 Collectively, Te Aupōuri represents the interests and aspirations of approximately 14,000 people who identify as Te Aupōuri.

Te Aupōuri Pou / Priorities

- 2.6 Te Aupōuri utilises four Pou apart of our strategic direction for our various entities to support our whānau. These are:
- (a) Te Pou Tāngata (Social) – Enable, empower and realise wellbeing for our people;
 - (b) Te Pou Tikanga (Cultural) – Increased access and understanding of Aupōuri kōrero and whakapapa;
 - (c) Te Pou Taiao (Environmental) – Protect and revitalize Aupōuri areas of significance; and
 - (d) Te Pou Tōnui (Economic) – Grow the Aupōuri asset base and generate wealth and revenue.
- 2.7 Te Aupōuri’s current and planned work programme to deliver on our strategic pou are detailed further below.

Overview of Te Aupōuri Land and Interests

- 2.8 Collectively, Te Aupōuri owns approximately 4,810ha of which 1,370ha is cultural redress lands and 3,273ha is commercial redress lands. Typically, cultural redress is in the ownership (or vested to) of Te Rūnanga while the commercial lands are in the ownership of TACDL, as shown in **Figure 1** below. Te Aupōuri also shares ownership or joint management over a number of cultural and commercial redress properties with other Te Hiku Iwi, such as Te Rerenga Wairua, Manawatāwhi / Three Kings, Simmonds and Rangitāhua / Kermadec Islands, Raoul Islands which. These collective interests are represented in **Figure 2** below. To scale versions of these maps are enclosed at **Attachment 1** to this evidence statement.
- 2.9 It is understood from Ms Dalton’s planning evidence, that the majority of Te Aupōuri’s commercial redress land is primarily zoned as Rural Production (“**RPROZ**”) under the PDP and will be subject to the Treaty Settlement Land Overlay (“**TSL**”). Our cultural

redress land, is a combination of Māori Purpose Zone (“**MPZ**”) and Conservation zone (“**CZ**”). Te Aupōuri has

2.10 Our principle commercial assets are Te Raite and Pukekaroro Station’s, which are described below:

- (a) **Te Raite Station** – Is an approximately 1,840ha productive farming unit, which is currently leased. The farm is centrally located between Pukenui and Te Oneroa-ā-Tohe. There is 230ha of plantation forestry, we have recently completed construction of a reservoir to enable expansion of horticultural activities, with plans to establish up to 200ha of horticulture activities.
- (b) **Pukekaroro Station** – Is an approximately 1,433ha productive farming unit, with 2,600 stock units and 100ha of pine forestry. It is located on the east coast in Ngataki.

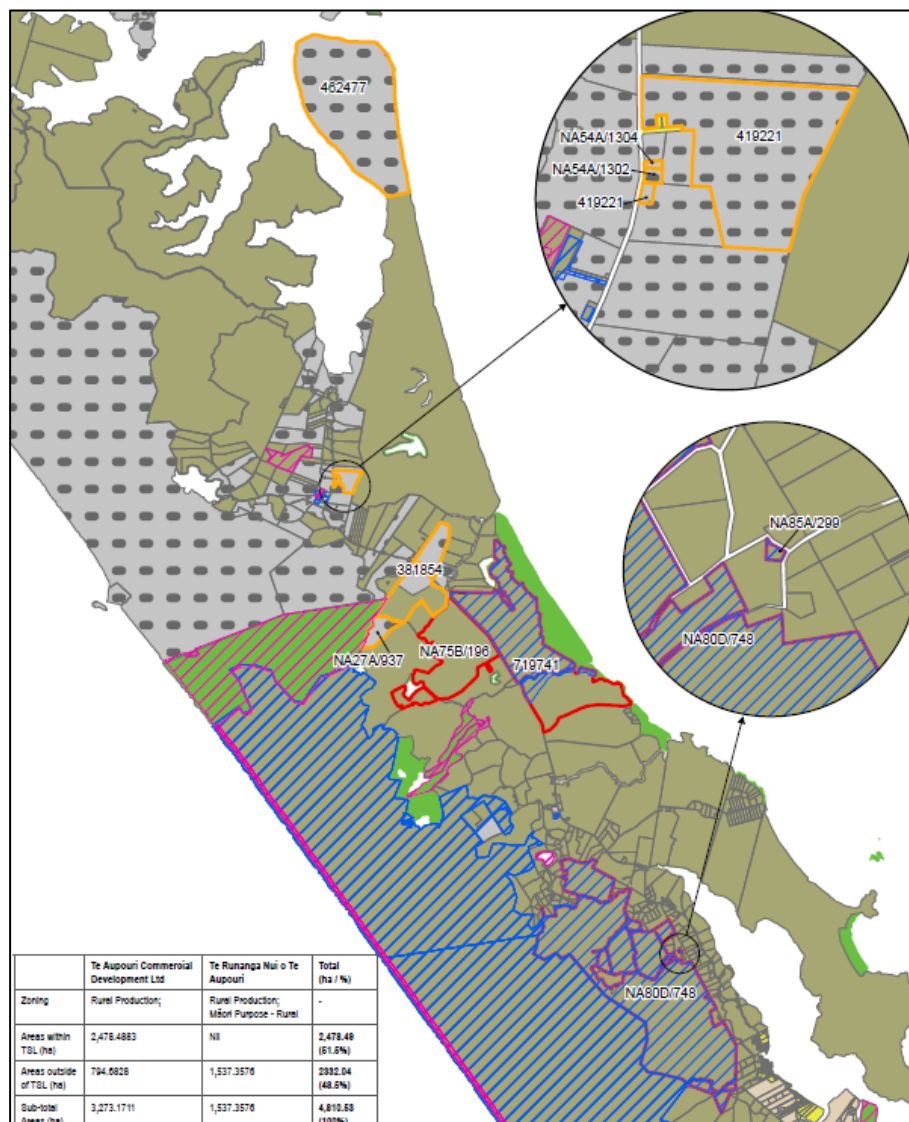


Figure 1: Te Aupōuri Treaty Settlement Landholdings - Commercial and Cultural Redress

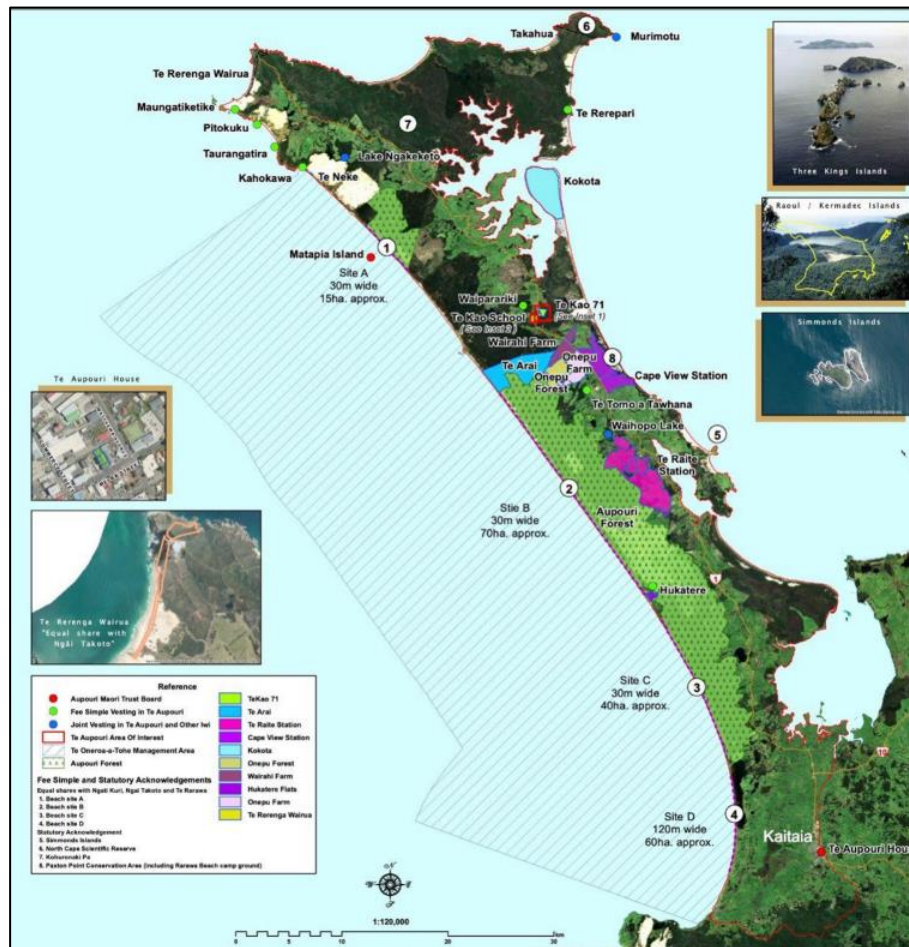


Figure 2: Te Aupōuri Treaty Settlement Lands

Delivering on Te Aupōuri Strategic Pou

2.11 In line with Te Aupōuri's pou detailed at section 2.4 above, below is a description of the various activities undertaken by the iwi to support our whānau:

(a) **Pou Tangata – enable, empower, and realise the well-being of our people:**

(i) **Moekoraha Papakāinga** – recently granted resource consent approach to establish a 30-unit housing development with kōhanga reo (for 20 tamariki) and a 230m² Community Facility. This will cater to whānau who are working in the area and providing housing for our Te Aupouri whanau on the peninsula. See **Figure 3** below.

(ii) **Pōtahi Papakāinga** – construction of 16 new homes (of which 11 have are completed) to add to the existing 22 homes and 3 kuia / kaumātua flats with supporting infrastructure. Including the installation of a new

package wastewater treatment plant to service the new and existing homes. See **Figure 4** below.

- (iii) **Housing Repairs** – the distribution of funding to continue to strive to create warmer and drier homes, along with better living spaces to ensure healthier outcomes for whānau.
- (iv) **Tupu Plumbing Initiative** – is a 1-year training and employment program that prepares its participants for the construction and infrastructure industry through hands-on training with wraparound pastoral and cultural support.
- (v) **Puna Wai Ora** – is a water initiative ensuring our whānau can be resilient and have access to their own water supplies in times of crisis and drought by way of water tank installation. Beginning in 2021, Puna Wai Ora has seen the installation of over 100 water tanks across Te Hiku. The impact of this project has been hugely beneficial, not only through enabling whanau to access clean drinking water, but by creating local job opportunities and apprenticeships in the plumbing industry.



Figure 3: Drone Photo of Pōtahi Papakāinga.



Figure 4: Plan showing layout of Moekoraha Papakāinga

- (b) **Pou Tikanga – increased access and understanding of Aupōuri Matauranga and whakapapa:**
- (i) **Te Taumata** – Te Taumata, te kura reo o Te Tai Tokerau was successfully hosted by the Rūnanga and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rangi Āniwaniwa.
 - (ii) **Ngā Toi Tuhono** – Ngā Toi Tūhono, delivered by renowned whakairo practitioner, Korotangi Kapa-Kingi - Whānua Engagement Through Māori Fine Arts supported by Ministry of Education.
- (c) **Pou Taiao – Protecting, revitalizing and promoting our unique environments within our region:**
- (i) **Rangitahua me ngā wāhi hirahira o Te Aupōuri** – we continue to build avenues to assert our mana and affirm our whakapapa rights to the many areas of cultural significance to the iwi of Te Aupōuri. We are working hard to hold many government agencies involved in mahi taiao and resource management accountable to our Treaty settlement obligations.
 - (ii) **Oranga Whenua Oranga Tangata** – This team and programme focusses undertaking kaitiaki / tiaki taonga mahi and includes pest and weed management in and around Te Arai, Wahakari and Kokota to

eradicate possums, cats, rats, hedgehogs and even mustelids. Fencing and restoration work on our wāhi tapu/maunga Roimata is also a priority. Te Aupōuri has a nursery with plan number between 40-50,000 available for replanting programmes. All seedlings are eco sourced within our taiao. In the community, OWOT recently worked alongside marae whanau to complete fencing needed around Pōtahi Marae.

(d) **Pou Tōnui - Growing asset base, generating wealth and revenue to fund other pou:**

- (i) **Te Ngahere O Te Hiku** – Te Aupōuri Forest is 21,000ha, and Te Aupōuri is re major stakeholders in the forestry sector. More recently Te Aupōuri have invested significantly in the carbon farming sector which will enable the iwi to use and generate putea (money) to buy back or acquire alienated land.
- (ii) **Farming** – Comprising two farms being ‘Te Raite Station’ and ‘Pukekororo’. This makes Te Aupouri the largest landowner on the peninsula. With approximately 3,000 head of stock across both farms.
- (iii) **Aquaculture** – Te Aupōuri has approval and coastal permits for 11ha of coastal space. Currently are 30 longlines in operation (90,000m in total comprising 30 lines at 3,000m per line). Over the next 10 years, Te Aupōuri plans to triple this volume. With expansion, there will be a need to expand land-based processing activities, which will likely occur at Te Raite Station.
- (iv) **Fisheries** – Te Aupōuri continues to derive income from our annual catch entitlement received through the fisheries settlement. These fish quota are leased to a range of industry players, including smaller local businesses and corporate-scale national businesses such as Sealord, and Moana.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Te Aupōuri plays an important role as custodian and kaitaki of our whenua and assets on behalf of Te Aupōuri whānau. Te Aupōuri carry out a number of functions to ensure of Te Aupōuri whānau strive and prosper as a people.

- 3.2 In order for Te Aupōuri as a PSGE to deliver for its people, we a focussed on growing our economic base (Pou Tōnui) through our commercial base (farming, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries) and continuing to utilise economic returns to deliver on our other strategic directions of 'Pou Tangata', 'Pou Taiao' and 'Pou Tikanga'.
- 3.3 With respect to the PDP, Te Aupōuri acknowledges the importance of the PDP in the management of its whenua into the future. It is imperative that the PDP appropriately recognises Treaty Settlement Land and Whenua Māori as a taonga tuku iho and provides for the ongoing use and development of these resources in a manner that supports whānau. In particular, the PDP must provide sufficient flexibility to support the development of much needed safe, dry and quality housing. It must also appropriately enable the development and use of the land for economic development, as this is central to improving the social outcomes for the people of Te Hiku.

Tipene Kapa-Kingi

Date: 10 March 2025