



Joint Submission on behalf of Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board and Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust/ Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine

He Mihi

*E mihi atu ana ki a Papatūānuku, ki a Papatūārangi
Te papa i takatakahia e ngā mātua tūpuna, te papa i waihotia e rātou mā
Te Papa e maroro ki te itinga, e maroro ki te opunga
Te Papa-awhi, e awhi ana i a tātou, o tēnā, o tēnā, o tēnā o ngā whakatupuranga e tupu ake nei, a, me
nga uri e heke mai ana.
Te Ūkaipō, Te Ūkaiao o tātou katoa
Tenei ka whakaahora nei, te tapu i te tinana, te tapu i te whenua na i.
Mai i te kore, ki te pō, puta atu ki te ao mārama, tihei mauri ora!
'Mai rā i te kore, ki te pō, puta atu ki te ao mārama, tihei mauri ora' –*

This well-known expression in Te Ao Māori speaks to humankind's continuing emergence from the void, the darkness and into the glow of light, warmth and to our world and existence as we know it. It also a metaphor that underscores our need to continue looking to the horizon and maintain a strategic and inter-generational outlook. Moreover, we need to better understand ourselves and our circumstances so that we will be self-determining, self-reliant and that we flourish whilst maintaining balance and sustainability in our world.

Submission: In regards a proposal to establish the proposed Pilot Renewable Energy Zone, Te Tai Tokerau, Aotearoa New Zealand being led by Transpower, Northpower and Top Energy.

1. On behalf of our beneficiaries, we, the tribal authorities of Ngāti Hine and Patuharakeke are pleased to offer our full support to the proposed Northland Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). We see this pilot as a very important first step and entry point to the much-needed debate on how the energy future for our people and our respective rohe will be shaped as we enter a climate challenged future.
2. Traditionally, mana whenua and kaitiaki have not been at the forefront of energy planning, nor have our needs and perspectives been accommodated at the outset of this important debate on the future energy security and energy sovereignty of Te Tai Tokerau. We welcome the opportunity in this proposal to engage from the outset in a leadership role and look forward to participating in this project in a positive and proactive manner.
3. Our support arises from the potential economic benefit that a REZ may provide for both Te Tai Tokerau and our hapū. The rapidly unfolding climate crisis and its increasingly severe consequences for the planet cements our position. The climate crisis raises challenges on a scale none of us have ever experienced with disproportionate and severe consequences for Māori and other indigenous people worldwide.
4. As Hapū o Te Tai Tokerau, energy security and sovereignty will be at the heart of all efforts to build local resilience as the world shifts adjusts to an uncertain energy future. We therefore

wholeheartedly support the generation of low emissions electricity within Te Tai Tokerau to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

5. Energy transcends far beyond electricity generation and economic growth alone. In nature, energy is the currency of life. The human economy, which operates within the natural world, relies on energy as the master resource that enables all aspects of the human enterprise. It is clearly imbedded in all goods, services, infrastructure and every form of trade activity. The economy can only grow within the limitations that available energy resources set. Traditionally, energy economics has completely misunderstood this point.
6. Our past and current models that assume exponential and indefinite energy growth have lead us directly into the climate crisis and are no longer sustainable on a planet with finite resources. Today, given the immense challenge that climate change poses, we need new conceptual tools for how we understand, value and utilise energy in order to shift our economy to a truly sustainable form.
7. We need to move (and quite quickly) away from the current patchwork discussion on energy in Te Tai Tokerau that does not consider this holistic view. As such, we need to lift the conversation to create effective strategies and plans for our energy future. In the past, a misunderstanding of energy and a naïve belief that we can always generate more, has led to the economic failure of many major infrastructure projects. In Te Tai Tokerau, the Marsden B¹ power station is a prime example. At nearby Marsden Point, after 60 years of processing fossil fuels, the enormous public investment NZ made in maintaining its own refinery, has finally proved itself a stranded asset.
8. These failed projects have had significant deleterious impacts on the economic, environmental, social and cultural wellbeing of our hapū. For Patuharakeke, the Marsden B power station and the Marsden Point oil refinery both lie at the centre of our tribal rohe, in close proximity to Takahiwai Marae. This infrastructure has furthered land and resource alienation from hapū, caused significant pollution, damaged the surrounding whenua and moana and is a major blight on Mana Whenua. As Mana Whenua and Kaitiaki of the region's natural environment, our hapū are committed to ensuring that future energy projects do not repeat the mistakes of the past.
9. Transpower's explicit goal is to use REZs to increase renewable generation and electrify economic activity via a national transmission grid. Top Energy and Northpower will support this grid expansion at a regional level. The REZ is explicitly planned to benefit industrial customers, which begs the question of what benefit will Mana Whenua actually receive? Is a renewable grid the best energy solution for Te Tai Tokerau and ngā hapū or do other decentralised solutions exist? How does an increased dependence upon the grid alter our progress towards energy security, energy sovereignty and self-reliance? And how does a grid-based future incentivise the local economy to shift towards a circular economic model?
10. Bioenergy is an important energy source for our hapū and must feature in renewable energy discussions for Te Tai Tokerau. The Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust holds 5,500 hectares of plantation forest within their rohe as well as 50 hectares of kiwifruit orchards. Bioenergy is an incredibly accessible, versatile and economically viable energy resource that meets sustainability criteria. Forestry slash, hog wood and mill offcuts offer opportunities to produce both solid and liquid biofuels. Given the scale of the Ngāti Hine's forestry portfolio, bioenergy resources will be a key point in any energy discussions for our hapū, especially in the context of energy security, sovereignty and self-reliance.
11. The Te Tai Tokerau landscape will inevitably undergo significant industrialisation as the REZ progresses. If our hapū are to host this national-scale infrastructure in our respective rohe, should we just remain "no worse off"? Rather, our expectation is that we must be measurably better off from the development of REZ's. Ensuring a share of or access to cheaper electricity could be an

¹ Located inside the Patuharakeke rohe

effective means of achieving this goal. Reducing energy hardship, which affects many within Te Tai Tokerau, should be an unconditional objective of the REZ if it is to go ahead.

12. Grid-scale batteries, major onshore and offshore wind farms and expansive solar farms are just a few of the possible developments within Te Tai Tokerau. Meridian Energy, who have recently purchased a Bream Bay property, with a view to build a 105Ha, 100 MW solar farm is an example. Perhaps it will become the next form of energy industrialisation to take place within the Patuharakeke Rohe.
13. Transpower needs to develop approximately 70 grid-scale REZ connections across NZ to meet the forecasted growth in electricity demand. This ambition demonstrates that the Northland REZ could be the base of a rising wave of energy industrialisation. Where all of the associated industrial development will occur across New Zealand is not yet known.
14. Given that the proposed Northland REZ could be the blueprint which leads the country (the tail which moves the fish so to speak), it is crucial that Mana Whenua come into the conversation immediately. For many of our people this will be a new and expanded conversation. For the future success of all REZ's, investment in Energy Literacy at hapū leadership level is therefore required immediately.
15. These are the points we raise when energy is viewed through the narrow lens of a transmission-grid. To achieve long term and truly sustainable solutions that work for Mana Whenua, we must expand the debate and we see this pilot project as setting the right basis for that discussion. It is important that we situate it from the outset to include the discussion, planning and decision-making processes needed for energy to provide Te Tiriti - centric solutions that engage with Mana Whenua at a partnership level.
16. Northland has significant natural endowments for wind, solar, and geothermal electricity production. Ngawha is a leading example of sustainable energy production. The existing 220KV grid interconnection line to Marsden Point is also a significantly under-utilised asset. Although secondary connections throughout Northland have a very limited capacity, upgrades will unlock the region's wider potential. This will create employment in the short term during the construction and development phase. Most importantly, employment must continue over the long term. We encourage career pathway development for our rangatahi in maintenance, operations and management. Ngā hapū o Te Tai Tokerau should be engaged for employment at all levels of the proposed REZ and we encourage the development of a high-tech skills-based economy in Northland.
17. With the above points in mind, we look forward to the positive implementation of this important pilot project.

He Whakamutunga

A further proverb or whakatauki states, '*Ina tere nga kapua, he hau kei muri*'.

This whakatauki speaks to the energy of wind, how the breeze may be unseen, yet provides propulsion that moves clouds across the sky. Moreover, it highlights the intangibles of this world such as the power of thought, creativity and innovation and while they are indiscernible, provide the basis for creating a better world for everyone.

Naaku noa, na



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