**Submission to the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee on the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Bill**

**SUBMITTER INFORMATION**

Name: [insert name of iwi entity]

Iwi / Māori Organisation: [insert iwi]

Address: [insert postal address]

Email: [insert email address]

Phone: [insert contact number]

Contact: [insert name of contact person and position]

# INTRODUCTION

1. This submission is made by [insert name of iwi / Māori entity] on the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Bill.
2. [Insert any introduction regarding the entity making the submission]
3. [Insert geographical boundaries of the iwi location/areas of interest – these do not have to be conclusive or concrete, simply provided to demonstrate location/area over which your iwi would assert mana/want to be involved in decision making]
4. [Insert any other information about the iwi interests, or relevant Treaty settlements or fisheries matters].

# Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Bill

POSITION

[insert name of iwi / Māori entity supports maintaining the principles of Te Mana o te Wai within the Bill, however we are **strongly** **opposed** to the hierarchical obligations being repealed in the setting of wastewater environmental performance standards.

The following comments reflect the issue around the health and well-being of wai and their ecosystems as a fundamental priority when developing wastewater environmental performance standards, especially the subsequent impact and affects of the receiving environments on the wairua of iwi, hapū and our wider communities.

# OVERARCHING COMMENTS

1. Wai is part of our spiritual, cultural, genealogical and ecological DNA which is clearly articulated within our karakia, waiata, haka, pepeha and mihimihi.
2. Wai as a taonga is protected under the second article of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the degradation of the mauri of wai deprives us of our rangatiratanga obligations and responsibilities.
3. Wai is not a commodity to be despoiled just to manage fiscal imperatives and we cannot sustain our livelihoods if we do not put the health and well-being or mauri of te Taiao first and foremost. This must be the priority.
4. Our relationship with this (and other) taonga and subsequent developmental impacts has been clearly identified and clarified via a range of significant Waitangi Tribunal Reports, for example:
   * Mangonui Sewerage Report 1988
   * Ko Aotearoa Tēnei 2011
   * National Freshwater and Geothermal Resources Claim 2012; through to
   * Tino Rangatiratanga me te Kāwanatanga. Stage 2 Report of the Te Paparahi o Te Raki Inquiry 2022, specifically noting that we did not cede our sovereignty and hence our rights and interests to water have still not been addressed
   * Therefore this repeal is another process of marginalising our relationship with our taonga and undermining our mana whakahaere.
5. Within Te Taitokerau we have consistently fought and argued for the wellbeing of wai, specifically surrounding the issues around resource consent renewals for the aging wastewater treatment plants[[1]](#footnote-1). Even the Northland Regional Council has also applied for enforcement orders around non-compliant wastewater treatment plants[[2]](#footnote-2)
6. The ability to sustain our current and future generations will be based on our relationship with wai and protecting the mauri of our wai ecosystems. This should be our priority. If the mauri and wairua of our wai ecosystems is degraded, then so will we be and no amount of fiscal intervention and economic determinants will help minimise the degradation bearing in mind that the status quo has seen our water quality issues get worse not better.

# WISH TO BE HEARD

1. We [wish / do not wish] to make an oral submission in support of this written submission.

Signed: Dated: 13 June 2024

[insert name of Chairperson]

[insert name of iwi entity]

1. See Te Runanga o Te Rarawa v NRC A121/2009 NZEnvC 326 (17 November 2009), but more recently see NRCs Independent Hearing Commissioners determination on two RC applications to operate the Opononi / Ōmapere and Kohukohu WWTPs lodged by FNDC [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See NRC v FNDC [2019] NZEnvC 47 (20 March 2019) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)