

6 Waughs Road
RD 5
FEILDING 4775
16 August 2021

Palmerston North City Council

Tena koutou.

Re Proposed Kiwi Rail Hub at Bunnythorpe

I am making this submission on behalf of the whānau living in the Aorangi Marae Papakainga, and whānau associated with the Aorangi Marae. I filed a submission to the Council on 8 March 2021. This submission builds on that earlier submission.

Our whānau live at the Aorangi Marae Papakainga with homes on either side of the marae. Our homes face Waughs Road, with one of the homes also bordering Camerons Line. Waughs Road leads to Bunnythorpe. The Aorangi Marae is at the heart of the Papakainga and together, the Marae and the Papakainga have been in existence here for more than 135 years. Linked to the Marae and the Papakainga, and on the opposite side of the railway line, is the Aorangi Urupa.

Our whānau are tangata whenua and maintain ahi kā for the Tahuriwakanui Hapū.

Our submission voices concerns about land, about health and safety, and about cultural integrity.

For us, as **tangata whenua**, we carry responsibilities for the wellbeing of **tangata**, our people, and for the protection of **whenua**, our land.

In respect of **whenua**, the proposed devastation of 177 hectares of quality farm land in favour of a jungle of concrete, steel, trucks, engines, noise and fumes represents a modern version of land alienation. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has again reminded us that the world is facing serious concerns about levels of environmental pollution and subsequent global warming. Any degradation of high quality land needs to consider the inevitable consequences that will impact on future generations. Aotearoa New Zealand is part of a global community and we have responsibility to avoid further erosion of productive lands. The protection of our lands across Aotearoa has now been recognised as a critical requirement if we are to redress the mistakes of the past 100 plus years. The proposed Kiwi Rail hub on 177 hectares of highly fertile land favours economic gains over environmental sustainability. As kaitiaki for land we are opposed to ventures that will destroy the integrity of Papatuanuku. Our grandchildren and great grandchildren deserve to live as **tangata whenua** in a world where the wellbeing of people is strengthened by the wellbeing of the land. Unless the proposed venture seriously addresses the environmental impacts and the consequences of destroying 177 hectares of fertile and productive land, the Hub should not proceed.

Our earlier submission also drew attention to the wider impacts of the proposed hub on the health and safety of our whanau - **tangata**. Over time, especially over the past decade, we have been subjected to the consequences of road congestion due to greatly increased numbers of trucks and commuter vehicles along Waughs Road and Camerons Line. The high volumes of rail and road traffic have been associated with increasing risks to safety, health and wellbeing. We have serious exposure to noise, to fumes and to speed. Moreover, unwanted intrusion from passer-by's have generated a further set of challenges.

Our concerns about the Kiwi Rail proposal are related to the high likelihood of serious aggravation of the existing roading overload and the likelihood of concomitant rail overload through an increase in train traffic or through longer trains or both. They will all have lasting effects on the quality of life for our Papakainga whanau, for the mana of the Marae, and for the integrity of the Urupa. We might also add that similar concerns have relevance for the Taonui School on Waughs Road, where generations of our children have been educated.

We do not want our whanau to be further exposed to increased traffic volumes, or to longer or more trains. That will undoubtedly greatly magnify the current health and safety risks. Nor do we want to be subjected to even greater commotion from 24 hours of increased heavy truck and train traffic or to face the prospect of leakage from bulk liquid storage. Nor will the problem be solved by widening the roads and converting them into mini highways. That approach will further compromise the safety of whānau whose homes are alongside the roads.

Increasingly also, our Papakainga and our cultural traditions on the Marae, especially on the marae atea, have been rudely and thoughtlessly interrupted by commotion from passing trucks and cars. Any increase in that commotion will seriously undermine our traditions and our time-honoured practices. To add to the threats, traffic volumes have made it increasingly difficult to carry our loved ones from the Marae to the Urupa.

Our Conclusions

- 1 The wider impacts of the proposed hub need to be given serious consideration. **Environmental impacts** that include the destruction of land and the pollution of the environment will have intergenerational consequences. Our responsibilities for the reduction of atmospheric emissions and the retention of land, deserve high priority. Moreover, potential environmental consequences in the decades ahead should be assessed and addressed.
- 2 In our view the Kiwi Rail Hub should not proceed unless access to and from the Hub has **dedicated roads** that do not intrude on existing roads or on the Marae and its Papakainga. The building and usage of such roads should not impinge on our health, our safety, and our environment. Further, before any work starts on building a Hub, the new Hub-dedicated roads should be completed and ready to take Hub construction workers and other Hub traffic.

- 3 The consequences of increased road traffic and rail disturbance has already threatened our **cultural integrity**. As a longstanding centre for the transmission of culture, our marae should not be subject to further threats from road or rail.

- 4 While our Marae and Papakainga are not within the PNCC jurisdiction, we ask the Council decision to take into account the **wider impacts** of the venture and their potential to jeopardise the wellbeing of our whanau and our lands, now and for generations yet to come. The Hub cannot be considered without attention to those wider impacts on land and the environment, the wellbeing of our whanau in the Papakainga, and the importance of our Marae for the transmission of culture.

Mason Durie
On behalf of Aorangi Marae Papakainga
16 August 2021.