

PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN SUBMISSION

To

The District Plan Review

Email

districtplanreview@kaipara.govt.nz

From: T. Mere. A. Kepa

Address: 337 Takahiwai Rd. RD1 Takahiwai. 0171

P: 027 230 0515

E: tkep001@gmail.com

Nga Hapu

Te Parawhau & Te Patuharakeke o Te Parawhau, Ngati Kahu o Torongare, Ngati Rongo, Te Kawerau, Ngati Ira o Te Whakatohea, Ngati Raka o Ngai Tuhoe, Whanau a Apanui & Whanau a Rutaia

Affiliations:

Kaitiaki, Wai 3481 - the Fast-Track Approvals Act (Kepa) Claim

Kaitiaki, Project Jonah volunteer 14815, 2025

Kaitiaki, voluntary Pest Strategy: Takahiwai Hills and Forest. Est. 2017

Chair, Takahiwai Maori Committee. Est. 1977

Chair, Kopuawaiwaha 2B2 Ahu Whenua Trust. Est. 1949

Submission

Tena koe,

I oppose a District Plan that avoids making decisions until Maori and non-Maori understand one another.

On 19 February 2023, Catherine Delahunty commented that the behaviour of the mayor of Kaipara, Craig Jepson, exemplifies outdated approaches from the 1960s. Despite changes over time, his attacks on tikanga and co-governance issues are now prominent in the news, whereas previously they were considered routine.

Since relocating to Te Parawhau whenua on the southern shore of Whangarei harbour, rather than residing in Tamaki Makaurau, local government and Te Tiriti o Waitangi matters have become frequent topics in local publications. The foundation of Te Tiriti supports the continuation of the Maori constitutional order, which is rooted in tikanga and articulated in He Whakaputanga; however, this historical framework has been consistently dismissed and suppressed by both the Crown and local government.

The documented connection between the Te Parawhau Hapu and the Dargaville/Kaihu land and surrounding areas is well established. Despite this, Te Parawhau remains the only tribe affiliated with Kaipara that has not received the Crown's Iwi Authority Status due to delays in Treaty of Waitangi negotiations and settlement procedures. This injustice necessitates immediate rectification through advocacy for constitutional transformation.

A systematic dialogue regarding the necessity and potential of constitutional transformation within the context of the Te Parawhau Hapu's absence in the Kaipara District is imperative. These discussions are urgent for the Te Parawhau Hapu, the communities of Kaipara, and their interrelations with each other, the environment, and nature. Despite these conversations not progressing as they should have since the previous local body election, there exists a significant opportunity to advance them now.

The response to the Treaty Principles bill demonstrates that numerous individuals across Aotearoa are prepared for a constructive and principled discussion concerning Te Tiriti. It appears that both the Council and the District are more prepared than ever to engage with the Te Parawhau Hapu and explore the possibilities of a governance model that is conciliatory and consensual. Achieving this vision requires inclusive decision-making and law-making processes, alongside continuous dialogues with all communities in the Kaipara District to determine the form any new constitution should take.

Engagements with the Te Parawhau Hapu, other communities throughout the District, and local government are crucial. As long as the Te Parawhau Hapu is not supported to address their objectives and underfunded struggles, inequities will persist within the District.

I am unavailable for an in person appearance in a public hearing.

Naku noa na Mere



19 May 2025

27 June 2025

28 June 2025