

# SUBMISSION: Plan Change 7 – Rotokauri North Private Plan Change

**TO:** Hamilton City Council  
City Planning Unit  
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**FROM:** Rotokauri North Tangata Whenua Working Group  
Chairman  
Milton Ngaruhe  
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1. This submission is provided in support of Plan Change 7 – Rotokauri North Private Plan Change; and relates to all provisions of the plan change in its entirety.
  2. This submission is provided on behalf of the Rotokauri North Tangata Whenua Working Group (TWWG) and is jointly submitted by the members of the TWWG, which is made up of mandated representatives from each of the Waikato-Tainui hapuu within the vicinity of the project, they being: Ngaati Mahanga, Ngaati Hauaa, Ngaati Tamaiunapo, Ngaati Wairere, Ngaati Reko - Waikeri Marae and Te Uri o Mahanga.
  3. The Ngaati Mahanga (Milton Ngaruhe), Ngaati Hauaa, Ngaati Tamaiunapo and Ngaati Wairere hapuu representatives on the TWWG are also hapuu representatives on Te Haa o te Whenua o Kirikiriroa, a consultative group representing local mana whenua on issues relating to the management of Hamilton's natural and physical resources.
  4. The Te Uri o Mahanga representative on the TWWG was directly appointed by the Iwi of Ngaati Mahanga.
  5. TWWG confirms it could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

## BACKGROUND

6. The Rotokauri area falls within the tribal boundary of Waikato-Tainui and the hapuu of the TWWG, and as such they have the Mana Whakahaere (authority) over its lands and resources, including the Waikato River and its associated natural environs.

7. The TWWG has been established with the direction from Te Haa o te Whenua o Kirikiriroa and Waikato-Tainui, to include representatives from each of the Waikato-Tainui hapuu within the vicinity of the Rotokauri North Private Plan Change 7 area.
8. The TWWG was established to provide local tangata whenua the opportunity to engage with Green Seed Consultants Ltd (Green Seed) in a positive relationship. Bi-monthly meetings and site visits are held with the TWWG and Waikato-Tainui to work through all aspects of the plan change including but not limited to ecological and cultural values.

#### **ROKOKAURI NORTH TANGATA WHENUA WORKING GROUP**

9. The key function of the TWWG is to provide advice, recommendations and support to the Rotokauri North Private Plan Change project; and to develop and implement a Cultural Impact Assessment Report (CIA). Specific functions of the TWWG include:
  - a. Provide advice, reports and support to the proposal to enable local tangata whenua matters to be considered.
  - b. Work with Green Seed and its consultants to develop a CIA Report.
  - c. Provide written and oral feedback on the plan change and resource consent documentation as requested from time to time by Green Seed.
  - d. Advise on implementation matters within the CIA Report.
  - e. Attend key project meetings, site visits and workshops as required by Green Seed.
  - f. Where appropriate assist Green Seed with community liaison.
  - g. Undertake cultural ceremonies as and when appropriate.
10. The role of Waikato-Tainui was to identify tangata whenua organisations to be represented on the TWWG; work with Green Seed and the TWWG Project Facilitator to oversee and monitor activities of the TWWG; and review reports, provide advice and investigations produced by the TWWG.
11. The role of Green Seed is to work in good-faith with Waikato-Tainui and the TWWG and to ensure that they both are provided with relevant information, technical support and resourced appropriately to enable best practice engagement.

#### **CULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT**

12. A CIA has been developed by the TWWG from the information and feedback gained during consultation and engagement meetings with Green Seed, Waikato-Tainui and HCC in relation to the plan change and subdivision/development in the Rotokauri North area.

13. The CIA report includes a brief background to the Rotokauri North project and CIA scope, the methods undertaken in completing this report, overview of Raupatu and relevant legislation, Waikato Tainui mana whenua connections, cultural values and potential impacts of the development.
14. The CIA report provides a list of mitigation recommendations for potential issues and opportunities to consider alongside the subdivision development. The CIA report is expected to be a “living document”, which can be reviewed, updated and added to throughout the various phases of the Rotokauri North project.
15. The CIA report documents the Māori history, values, ecological and environmental interests in relation to potential impacts of the proposed activity or development. In regard to these matters the CIA aims to:
  - a. Highlight the relationship of Māori with their culture and traditions, ancestral lands, waters, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.
  - b. Uphold the values of kaitiakitanga in accordance with Waikato-Tainui in exercising functions and powers under the Resource Management Act 1991.
  - c. Identify the effects and/or impacts of a proposed activity upon Tangata Whenua cultural, ecological and social associations with the environment.
  - d. Identify or assist in the identification and formulation of methods to avoid, minimise and mitigate cultural and ecological impacts on the environment.
16. The CIA includes historical narratives that connect Waikato-Tainui and each of the TWWG hapuu to the Rotokauri area.
17. There are recommendations within the CIA report that fall within 5 key areas, which relate to the key principles and values of the CIA report.
  - a. Rangotiratanga – ongoing involvement of mana whenua. Tangata Whenua recognises that relationships are key to achieving holistic, positive environmental outcomes.
    - i. Recommendation 1: The TWWG continue to work in good faith and partnership with Green Seed on outcomes for Rotokauri North. Including further engagement to provide opportunities for Iwi to have input into technical reports.
    - ii. Recommendation 2: Ensure that the future resource consent applications provide an appropriate summary of the engagement undertaken with TWWG as well as the issues (and potential remedies) identified in this cultural impact assessment.
  - b. Waahi Taaonga - Heritage Issues and Significant Sites.

- i. Recommendation 3: To reaffirm 'whakapapa' the traditional cultural story/cultural narrative to support the cultural indigenous place-making throughout the Rotokauri North area. The focus on opportunities to recognise and provide for the enhancement and tangible reflection of mana whenua cultural values as a key element of land management and developments, including but not limited to:
1. Potential to use traditional mana whenua names for street and neighbourhood names.
  2. Use of indigenous plant species in riparian restoration, as street trees, in open space and reserves.
  3. Landscaping design that reflects cultural perspectives, ideas and materials, contemporary Māori culture in building design, artwork and furniture in public open space.
  4. Inclusion of interpretation materials, communicating the history and significance of places, resources and potential to use taangata whenua inspired and designed artwork and structures (pou).
  5. Appropriate karakia or other cultural protocols to be implemented when appropriate.
  6. Green Seed are committed to ensuring the appropriate protocols (tikanga and kawa) are followed throughout the project (on land falling within Green Seed ownership/management).
  7. The TWWG consider it important to include the requirement for a cultural monitor to be present with the archaeologist upon the removal of topsoil or other times where deemed necessary. This also supports knowledge transfer and enhancing of cultural capacity of the local iwi.
  8. Implementation of accidental discovery protocols (ADP) whereby in the event of a discovery or archaeological material, earthworks will stop and appropriate iwi and NZ Heritage advice will be sought and appropriate actions followed. That any contractors involved in earthworks be given appropriate guidance on the ADP (via cultural health and safety induction) by a designated TWWG representative and that agreement to this is duly noted.

c. *Nгаа Wai Ora* - Freshwater and Waste Management

- i. Recommendation 4: Endorse the proposed Sub-Catchment ICMP utilising latest best practice techniques or the management and treatment of stormwater and recognition that all sites will be serviced for wastewater (therefore no new individual sites will have onsite wastewater disposal systems, and all sites will connect to the HCC reticulated network), and:

1. The use of vegetated swales, rain gardens, wetlands and/or reduced impervious surfaces within the development and within street and reserve design.
  2. Treating stormwater close to source, using native plant species.
  3. Providing opportunities where possible for onsite re-use of water.
  4. Ongoing monitoring and maintenance of storm water treatment and control according to regulatory requirements.
- ii. Recommendation 5: Any water-take and water allocation applications be reviewed by TWWG to ensure efficient use and management of the resource.
  - iii. Recommendation 6: Water sensitive designs are included within the development to mimic natural systems including restoration of any natural streams that flows through the site.
  - iv. Recommendation 7: That the subdivision be developed to require and/or encourage the incorporation of innovative low impact urban design by future development, including rainwater collection and re-use (where practicable) landscaping, low energy/water fittings, insulation and solar or alternative energy sources/systems, as well as solar hot water system.
- d. Mahinga Kai – Customary Food and Resource Species and Biodiversity of taonga species.
- i. Recommendation 8: Endorse the continued protection of the native kahikatea stand as a SNA and encourage the enhancement of this area.
  - ii. Recommendation 9: To include valued food gathering species or those that support habitat for mahinga kai species for both reserves and roads/streets. Consideration should be given to wider biodiversity gains for native birds, bats, insects and also lizards by providing specific habitat in reserves and roads/streets for these species including:
    1. Eco-sourcing of plants from within the Waikato basin and ensuring species that reflect history of the area.
    2. Revegetation and re-establishment of riparian margins with indigenous plants for land cover and the creation of indigenous habitat.
    3. Development of reserve areas, integrated storm water ponds, green corridors and open space to provide buffer zones between the development and the commercial and residential areas.

4. Integration of the landscaping into the esplanade reserve, taking into account corridor for native bats.
  5. Develop and restore indigenous riparian, forest, grassland and wetland habitats.
  6. Support cultural harvest and long-term utilisation of natural resources.
- iii. Recommendation 10: Encourage use of Te Reo Te Repo Wetland Handbook in delivering joint biodiversity and cultural outcomes for any riparian, wetland or reserve planting.
- e. Kotahitanga - Tangata Whenua Partnership Outcomes
- i. Recommendation 11: Encourage ways to incorporate Tangata Whenua in business, housing opportunities, social and education enterprise and commercial ventures, including but not limited to:
    1. Plant supply, landscape and riparian planting and plant maintenance.
    2. Capacity building of kaitiaki to undertake monitoring, archaeological surveying.

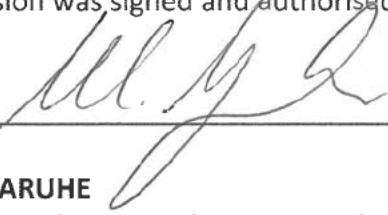
18. As authors of the CIA report, the TWWG support the report's recommendations and have worked in partnership with Green Seed to ensure those recommendations are appropriately reflected in Plan Change 7 as currently proposed. We will continue to work with Green Seed to that end throughout the implementation of Plan Change 7, as necessary.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

19. This submission is provided in support of the Rotokauri North Private Plan Change 7 and is subject to further refinement and amendments.
20. The Rotokauri North TWWG seeks the following decision from HCC:
  - a. Approve the Rotokauri North Private Plan Change 7, subject to any further amendments the Panel may consider necessary to reflect and provide for the recommendations of the CIA Report.
21. The TWWG wish to be heard in support of its submission. We would consider presenting a joint case with similar submissions at any hearing.

This submission was signed and authorised by the following parties on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Signed



**MILTON NGARUHE**

**Chairman - Rotokauri North Tangata Whenua Working Group  
Ngaati Mahanga**

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