

BEFORE THE SOUTH TARANAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL HEARING COMMISSIONERS

IN THE MATTER OF The Resource Management Act 1991

AND Te Kaunihera o Taranaki ki Te Tonga / South Taranaki District
Council Plan

AND Plan Change 3: Papakāinga Development

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF RICHARD BUTTIMORE
ON BEHALF OF PARININIHI KI WAITOTARA INCORPORATION
DATED 24 FEBRUARY 2025



PO Box 241
Ngāmotu
Taranaki

Submitter No. 2 and Further Submitter No. 11

A INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF EXPERIENCE

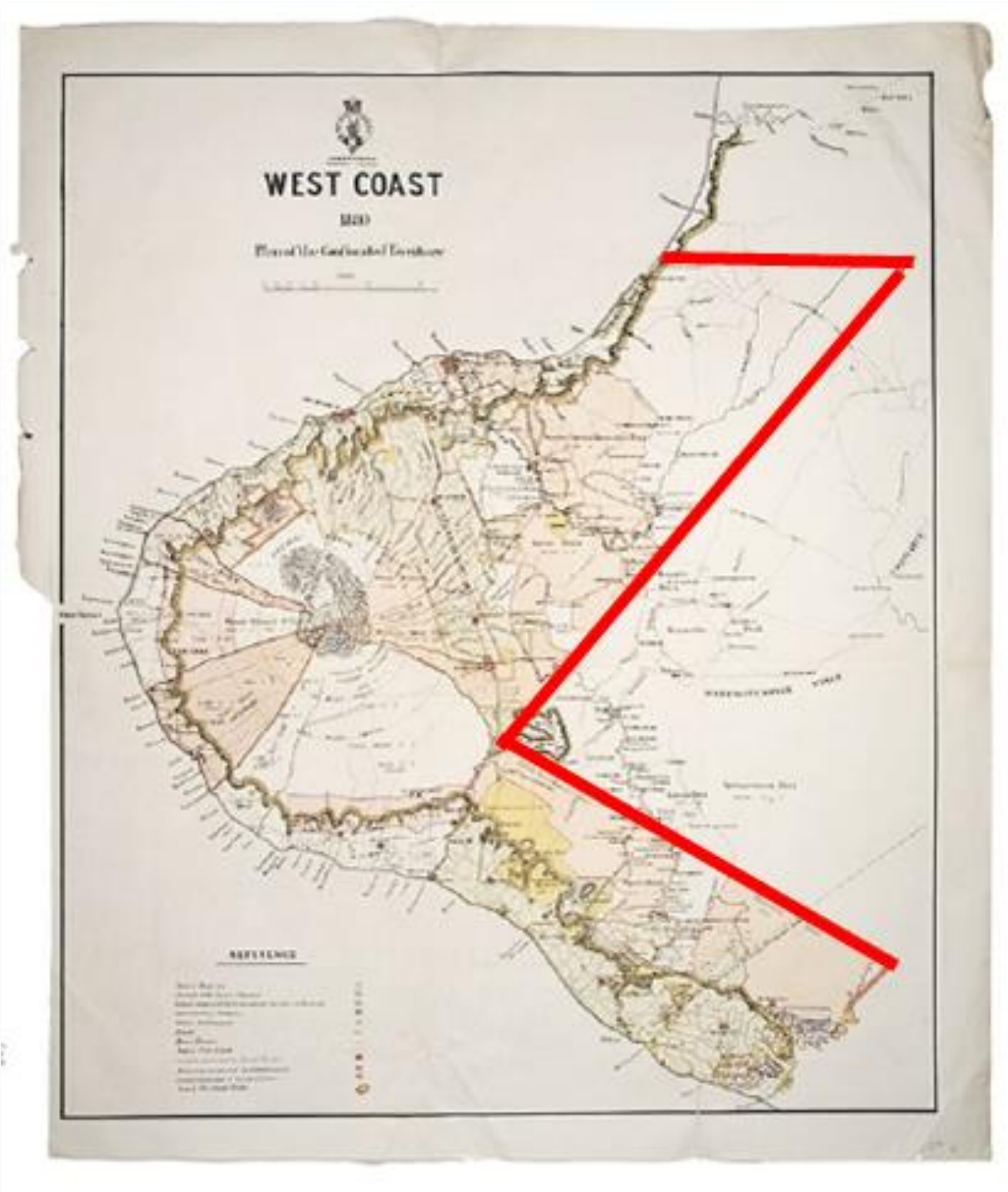
1. Ko Taranaki, Ko Pouākai, Ko Kaitake, Koia te puna I heke mai ai te tangata. Koia ko ō mātou nei okiokinga, ko mātou nei tō rātou okiokitanga.
2. My name is Richard Brian Buttimore and I am Te Rau Whakahono Pito/ General Manager of Property for Parininihi Ki Waitotara. I have held this position for the last 4 years.
3. I hold a Bachelor of Business Studies, majoring in Property Valuation and Management and Economics, as well as a Post Graduate Diploma in Finance from Massey University, Palmerston North.
4. I have 15 years' experience in a variety of property management and development roles working throughout New Zealand and Brisbane, Australia. Alongside this has been my lived experience through active participation as a Hapu member of Ngā Mahanga a Tāiri.

B PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THIS EVIDENCE

5. The purpose of this evidence is to address:
 - a. The history of Parininihi Ki Waitōtara;
 - b. Current Parininihi Ki Waitōtara whenua holding;
 - c. Papakāinga Development.

C HISTORY OF PARININIHI KI WAITŌTARA

6. The 20,000ha of whenua tūpuna administered by Parininihi ki Waitōtara is defined by the confiscation line running from Parininihi (White Cliffs) in the north to Waitōtara in the south, a result of the Crown's wrongful confiscation of Taranaki Maori land in 1865 as the result of settler demand for land in Taranaki.
7. Following resistance to Government aggression resulting in armed conflict from 1860-1863 Taranaki Māori were deemed to be in rebellion against her Majesty's authority. Everything to the west of this line (500,000+ha) was confiscated under the Suppression of the Rebellion Act and the New Zealand Settlements Act in 1863.
8. After years of petitioning by Taranaki Māori, 81,500ha of confiscated land was finally returned in name only under the West Coast Settlement Reserves Act 1881. This Act provided for the lands to be surveyed, divided, and leased with the intention of promoting settlement opportunities for settlers. This underlying whenua was awarded to 5,289 individual people. While legal ownership of the 81,500ha was returned to Taranaki Māori, the right to occupy and utilise the whenua was not.



9. Over the following 10 years the 1881 Act was amended five times in which the legality of the leases became questionable due to administrative irregularities on the part of the Public Trustee. The subsequent West Coast Settlement Reserves Act 1892 legally validated the leases, going further than the original legislation by converting them from terminating to perpetual. This self-validating Act by the Crown forced an end to the owners litigation against the Public Trustee.
10. In 1963 the Titles of all the West Coast Settlements Reserves were amalgamated by the Crown into what became known as the Parinihi ki Waitōtara mega reserve. The 1963 amalgamation

order declared all reserves to be held in common ownership with one equitable title by all owners. Shares were produced and apportioned relative to the amount of land owned by the individual prior to amalgamation, severing on paper traditional whakapapa links held to individual land parcels.

11. In 1967 the Maori Affairs Amendment Act was introduced and was widely condemned and opposed by Māori leaders as the legislation was seen to encourage the alienation of whenua. The Act was introduced to deal with the Crown administrative problems of uneconomic interests, successions, and multi-ownership, introducing the notion of Māori Incorporations. This legislation enabled shares to be sold to the Maori Trustee, who in turn could sell those shares to West Coast Settlement Reserve Lessees, enabling Lessees to freehold.
12. Māori dissatisfaction with the perpetual leases led to several commissions of inquiry during the 1890 – 1970 period relating to the original confiscation, terms, conditions and management of the Leases by the Crown.
13. Parininihi Ki Waitotara Incorporation was established in 1976 following the extensive lobbying from an Owners Action Group to prevent the further alienation of Māori whenua and take over control from the Māori Trustee. By this time only 20,000ha of whenua tūpuna remained.

D CURRENT PARININIHI KI WAITŌTARA WHENUA HOLDING

14. Parininihi ki Waitōtara currently administers over 21,000ha of whenua within Taranaki on behalf of its 11,500 Te Rau Titikura (Shareholders) under a mix of ownership tenure, the vast majority of whenua is zoned rural.
15. 17,300ha is situated in the rohe o Te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki Te Tonga, 16,800ha of which is Māori Freehold Whenua. A breakdown of the different landholdings is below.
 - a. General Title whenua - 500ha
 - b. Māori Freehold Whenua – 16,800ha
 - i. Leasehold Whenua - 16,050ha (underlying Title is Māori Freehold)
 - Leasehold Whenua where the Leasehold Interest is owned by a third party – 13,350ha.
 - Leasehold Whenua where the Leasehold Interest is owned by Parininihi ki Waitōtara – 2,700ha
 - ii. Māori Freehold Whenua (sole title) directly owned by Parininihi ki Waitōtara – 750ha.
16. Of critical importance is understanding the access to Māori Freehold whenua is frustrated by the perseverance of Leasehold Titles pursuant to the Maori Reserved Lands Amendment Act 1997, which continues to limit the ability of tangata whenua to use and occupy their whenua.
17. It is too simplistic to assume all of the land holdings of Parininihi ki Waitōtara are unencumbered similar to other freehold titles and use this as the scope of opportunity for the development of papakāinga as a permitted activity across the South Taranaki District.
18. Parininihi ki Waitōtara currently have operating interests that include, bovine and ovine dairy, Koura fisheries, horticulture, forestry and commercial property.

19. As a Māori land-based organisation, PKW is deeply aligned with the environmental values upheld by hapū, iwi and our Te Rau Titikura. We hold the view that this shared values system of manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, whakaponu and kaitiakitanga which are woven into our Kaitiakitanga Strategy, directing and enabling Parininihi ki Waitōtara to enhance the mana of the whenua and the mana of the people who are the custodians of the land, ensuring it flourishes for generations to come.

E PAPAĀINGA DEVELOPMENT

20. Parininihi Ki Waitōtara supports the intent, and in principle the Papakāinga provisions of the Proposed Plan Change 3: Papakāinga Development as a way to empower whanau, marae, hapū and Iwi to develop Papakāinga and utilise their whenua in a way that benefits current and future generations.
21. Parininihi ki Waitōtara is a Taranaki Māori Incorporation, our Te Rau Titikura are the descendants of the whenua returned to Taranaki Māori as a result of the wrongful confiscation by the Crown under the West Coast Settlement Reserves Act in 1881 as set out above.
22. Parininihi ki Waitōtara seek to support or Te Rau Titikura, whanau, marae, hapū and Iwi in achieving their aspirations and reconnect them with their whenua.
23. Parininihi ki Waitōtara support Papakāinga Development regardless of Land Zoning or Land Ownership status as a way to help realise this Aspiration.

F RECOMMENDATIONS

24. To address the issues that I have raised, this evidence recommends:
- a. The provisions of PLC03 are amended to better recognise the context within which Māori Freehold and Māori Customary land in Taranaki has eventuated; and specifically, that despite this freehold title, the overlying perpetual leasehold title is a significant impediment to this whenua being available for whānau, hapū and iwi to realise their aspiration on whenua they have whakapapa to.
 - b. The definition of General Title Land in Section 1: Introduction and Definitions is expanded to include ownership of General Title Land by Māori Incorporations, Māori Land Trusts and or other applicable Māori ownership structures.
 - c. The proposed amendment to Section 1. Introduction the definition of Papakāinga Development to include General Title Land that is ancestral land is supported in principle.
 - d. The proposed amendment of Section 2.7.5 within Objectives and Polies 5 regarding enabling Papakāinga on General Title Whenua is given affect to.
 - e. The proposed amendments to Section 3. Rural Zone, Section 4. Residential Zone and Section 4. Township Zone are extended to enable papakāinga to be developed as a permitted activity irrespective of the underlying title.

RICHARD BUTTIMORE
24 February 2025