

TE TŪTOHU WHAKATŌPŪ I TE WAIHORA
Relationship Agreement for Te Waihora (Lake
Ellesmere) Between the Canterbury Regional
Council (“Environment Canterbury”) and Te
Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu



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Ka whakakao mai nei kā hau
Ahakoa i ahu mai i hea
Te Kete Ika a Rākaihautū te tuatahitaka
Nei anō te reo ka tukuna i te hau o whakamihi
Ki kā reo, ki kā mana, ki kā whakaihuwaka kua whakarauika mai
i raro i te whakaaro he ora te whakapiri
Ka ora anō tā tātou kete kai i a tātou e whakapiri ana
Hei whakatikatika anō i tēnei kōrero o mua
Ko ngā hau ki ētahi wāhi, ko ngā kai ki Orariki

Through this agreement, we (Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu/Te Waihora Management Board and Environment Canterbury) express and confirm our shared commitment to Whakaora Te Waihora – the restoration and rejuvenation of the mauri and ecosystem health of Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere) so that it continues to provide current and future generations with the sustenance, identity and enjoyment that it has to those in the past. The parties’ intention is that this agreement will be enduring and will be given effect to through the parties’ operational implementation of their respective functions.

Te Waihora is an area of cultural, mahinga kai, natural, historic, recreational and commercial importance to many people. To Ngāi Tahu, Te Waihora represents a major mahinga kai and an important source of mana. Its earliest name, Te Kete Ika a Rākaihautū - the fish basket of Rākaihautū, - pays tribute to this significance and the role of the lake in the history, identity and ongoing wellbeing of Ngāi Tahu Whānui. This includes the outstanding values relating to habitat for wildlife, indigenous vegetation and fish and significance in accordance with tikanga Ngāi Tahu in respect of Ngāi Tahu history, mahinga kai and the customary fishery.

We jointly recognise the unique relationship that Ngāi Tahu have with the ancestral lands and taonga of Te Waihora, as well as the layered histories of the lake and its catchment that have shaped and influenced its form, ecological function and health and well-being, from Ngāi Tahu’s settlement and occupation, through the years of European settlement, to today, and the degraded state of the many intrinsic values of the lake, its tributaries in the context of Ki Uta Ki Tai.

It is accepted that nothing in this agreement shall negatively affect the value of the Ngāi Tahu Settlement (NTCSA) specifically as it relates to the bed of Te Waihora and other land, sites of significance and values in the catchment. In addition nothing in this agreement shall derogate from Ngāi Tahu's right to exercise rangatiratanga over those matters confirmed as part of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. This agreement shall look to go beyond the Settlement, continuing the process of healing and enter a new age of co-operation with Ngāi Tahu.

It is also accepted that Environment Canterbury has statutory functions, duties and obligations which go beyond this agreement. The parties acknowledge that nothing in this agreement restricts fetters or derogates from the statutory functions, duties and obligations imposed on Environment Canterbury by the Local Government Act 2002, the Resource Management Act 1991, the Environment Canterbury (Temporary Commissioners and Improved Water Management) Act 2010, or any other statute or regulation.

This agreement represents a coming together of our respective responsibilities and values to achieve the enhancement and protection of this jointly recognised taonga in an integrated, collaborative and effective way. In the pursuit of our shared outcomes for Te Waihora, we agree to uphold the principles of good faith and cooperation, and early, open and transparent communication. We acknowledge and respect the tikanga and statutory responsibilities and values that we respectively hold in relation to Te Waihora and its catchment and together in a courageous and innovative manner we are committed to the highest level of good faith collaboration to enable the exercise of these in practical, lawful, meaningful and coordinated ways. In doing so, we will apply the principles of consensus decision making in all our endeavours under this agreement.

We recognise that the restoration and rejuvenation of the many values of Te Waihora will take considerable time, effort and financial resources; collaborative engagement with numerous stakeholders; and will require an adaptive management approach as our understanding changes and grows. Through this, we agree to stand 'shoulder to shoulder/pakahiwi ki pakahiwi', and to be guided at all times by our joint commitment to the realisation of shared outcomes aimed at the restoration and rejuvenation of Te Waihora, including the cultural, mahinga kai, indigenous biodiversity, historic, commercial and recreational values associated with Te Waihora.

mā whero, mā pako; ka oti ai te mahi
the task shall be achieved through unity

EXECUTION:

Signed by:
on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

Signed by:
on behalf of Te Waihora Management Board

Signed by:
on behalf of Canterbury Regional Council