

**BEFORE INDEPENDENT HEARING COMMISSIONERS
AT THE DISTINCTION WHANGĀREI HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE, 9 RIVERSIDE
DRIVE, WHANGĀREI**

**I MUA NGĀ KAIKŌMIHANA WHAKAWĀ MOTUHAKE
KI WHANGĀREI**

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

**IN THE MATTER of the hearing of submissions on applications by Meridian Energy
Ltd – regional land use consent including removal of wetlands – SH15, McCathie
Road / Marsden Point Road / Rama Road, Ruakākā [APP.045356.01.01]**

1. MAY IT PLEASE THE COMMISSIONERS:

MIHI MIHI

- 1.1 E te atua, tēnā koe. E ngā ātua o te Taiao o Pukekauri ki uta, ki Terenga Paraoa ki tai; e rangi, e papa, e tane, e tawhiri, e tumatauenga, e hine moana me taongaroa tēnā koutou kātoa. Nau mai haere mai ki te whakaronga me titiro te kōrero o te take o te wā.
- 1.2 Nau mai haere mai ki ngā wairua o o tatou tupuna huri noa i te whare i tenei ra.
- 1.3 E te whare, e tu! E te whenua e takato nei, tēnā kōrua, e ngā tupuna maunga e tu, e tu, e tu nei! E ngā tupuna awa, e rere, e rere, e rere nei ki te tupuna o Terenga Paraoa. E te whanaunga o tatou haukainga tēnā kautou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.
- 1.4 Ki te komihana, e te rangatira, Tēnā koutou.
- 1.5 Ko Pukekauri me Manaia tōku maunga, ko Poupouwhenua tōku whenua, ko Ruakākā tōku awa, ko Takahiwai tōku marae, ko Terenga Paraoa me Te Akau tōku moana. Ko George Milner tōku pāpā o Ngāti Manu, ko Kariti Milner nee Pirihi o Patuharakeke tōku māmā, ko Gail Webb tōku hoa wahine, ko Jayden raua ko Tiarna tōku taitamariki, ko Dave Milner tōku ingoa. Ti hei wā mauri ora!

INTRODUCTION

- 1.6 My name is David Richard Baker Milner. I represent Te Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board (PTB) as one of two Pou Hautu o Te Pou Taiao.

EXPERIENCE

- 1.7 During my studies for a Bachelor in Iwi Environmental Management (2012) I began my journey in resource management policy and environmental management and restoration from a cultural perspective with the Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board. Shortly after, I was employed as the Taiao Project coordinator and then Pou Taiao (Environmental Manager) 2014 - 2018 at the Ngāti

Rangī Trust, in Ohakune Ruapehu district. Since then I have been a Kaupapa Taiao Specialist for Kāhu Environmental Ltd based in Te Tai Tokerau. As mentioned this submission is formally mandated in my capacity as PTB Te Pou Hautu o Te Pou Taiao. PTB is the only entity that has the mandate to represent Patuharakeke Hapū in regard to the Patuharakeke strategic Plan and Hapū Environmental Management Plan.

SCOPE OF SUBMISSION

- 1.8 This submission supports our CEA and submission lodged in relation to this application authored by Juliane Chetham and Alyssa Thomas respectively, on behalf of the PTB.

SUBMISSION

- 1.9 PTB have had positive and meaningful engagement with MEL throughout the CEA process. I agree with the account of the engagement process as set out in the evidence of Micah Sherman and do not repeat that here.
- 1.10 The protection and restoration of te mana me te mauri o te wai is of utmost importance to Patuharakeke. Generally speaking, we do not support wetland loss. In this instance, PTB have worked closely with MEL through multiple workshops with the intention of minimising disturbance to wetlands and maximising opportunities to re-establish wetland habitat, improve the modified waterways on the sites (eg. Bercich Drain and Drain K) to support taonga species and enhance the quality of water that ultimately enters our mahinga mātaitai both in the Ruakākā awa and Te Akau/Bream Bay. In addition we have reached agreement to retain the kanuka block on site 1 in perpetuity, and avoid the midden on that site.
- 1.11 Therefore, as per our submission our position remains:
- 1.12 “Patuharakeke are generally supportive of the application. The Cultural Effects Assessment that we undertook has been provided with the application and our recommendations have either been incorporated into proposed consent conditions or are the subject of other discussions under our Relationship Agreement”.

- 1.13 We have reviewed the latest set of conditions and support this version. We consider these are consistent with relevant provisions of Part II of the RMA, supporting Patuharakeke relationships and values associated with the cultural landscape of Poupouwhenua, and our role as kaitiaki and ahi kā. Through PTB's partnership with Meridian we continue to develop a framework to enable broad outcomes across multiple wellbeings in line with our Hapū Strategic Plan.
- 1.14 Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.