

Thank you for receiving this submission.

I begin by acknowledging the 13 iwi and hapu of Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and the 6 mana whenua tribes not part of the collective plus the tangata whenua tribal peoples of Tāmaki Makaurau. I also pay my respects to the Elders of the past and of the present.

I am a Treeadvocate. Like the majority of submitters I am here to speak for the living beings who do not have a voice or a seat at your table, the Standing People.

We can do better.

I am challenging; not only the Authority's proposal to amend the IMP to enable you to destroy potentially all of the maunga trees; but also this very process of amendment itself.

Taking out 1000s of trees changes local climate, destroys ecosystems and biodiversity. You have already seen this on Mangere and Ohuierangi. You have committed ecocide. You will see it at Unitec where it was "*too expensive*" to design around the trees. It could only be "*too expensive*" because you value these living beings at zero. Within 10 years there will be an international crime of ecocide. Let US not go there.

The vast majority of over 1600 submitters oppose the Authority's amendment to the IMP . They have told you why the people wish to retain our valuable climate managing mature trees. How they are our tupuna and vital for the health and wellbeing of all of us, of future generations and of Tamaki Makaurau.

They have told you that what the Authority proposes to do is not in alignment with the teachings of our ancestors and therefore is not tika. These ancient teachings come from across the Earth and beyond. They are consistent with the view that our purpose as members of the human race living on and from this planet is to protect and preserve our Earth and all that gives us life.

The submitters have told you how other indigenous peoples have made the mistake of sacrificing their environment and biodiversity for the sake of power, prestige and money. Let US not make the same mistakes.

Our survival going forward requires us to walk in unity, with each other and together with those with whom we share this Earth. To do this we all need to change the way we think and behave.

The Authority and Auckland Council have been tasked with creating a co-governance model that will respect the sensitivities of the treaty settlement and will deliver peace and unity for all who live in Tamakei Makaurau .

Therefore it is not about being “*our turn now*”. It’s about reaching higher in the way we think and behave. Beautifully put by Rick Tau who carried the challenging task of the first Treaty land claim, the Ngai Tahu Claim “ *we did not support remedying injustices against us by placing an injustice upon fellow innocent citizens.*” What about fellow innocent living beings?

I submit that the Authority’s processes and practices have failed to engender public trust and in fact have lead to public mistrust. Its culture is adversarial and high handed.

It is vital that this consultation process address the past lost opportunities:

- We were promised an opportunity for communities and Local Boards to work closely with TMA to produce Individual Maunga plans - this has not happened.
- In September 2022 the first three Draft Individual Maunga plans were finally produced for public “*feedback*”. Feedback is not engagement nor is it working closely with communities to produce the plans.
- There are no Individual Maunga Plans for maunga included in this amendment.
- Recent litigation has determined that Council’s Resource Consent process was incorrect thereby rendering the current active Resource Consents, challengeable.
- This amendment process is the first time we see the Authority involving Local Boards. This creates a public suspicion that there was some gain to be obtained by going to the Local Boards and by-passing real engagement with the local communities themselves.
- A review of the IMP should have taken place last year. There does not appear to be any review scheduled.
- The unminuted 9 March 2022 Chair’s amendment to the approved IMP adding his introduction is not part of this amendment process when it should be. To our knowledge, there has been no consultation process or approval from the Authority members to this Chair’s amendment.
- Despite the Chair’s March 2022 introduction stating that the Authority was ... “*the statutory co-governance table where Mana Whenua and Auckland Council sit as equals*” from the public opposition to the Authority’s “*ecological restoration plans*” this is not reflected in the Authority’s actions. The culture has resoundingly failed fully to embody equality and it’s secretive Hui’s treat the public as adversaries.
- Last week Council told us there would be an unscheduled Extraordinary meeting on Friday November 11th for the Authority members to consider a report on the submissions to the proposed IMP Amendment.
- The public are asking is this extraordinary hui being arranged because it is the Authority’s intention to execute their active Resource Consents over the Christmas period?
- Is this not indecent haste for a decision that has involved extensive litigation, that has major implications for the Authority and for Tamaki

Makaurau. Is it appropriate for the outgoing members to be asked to make this decision before the new Authority members are appointed?

- Surely this is not the kind of behaviour that the TMA members wish to be associated with?

Last week I attended the O Tātou Ngahere Conference at Te Papa where Government Ministers and expert speakers were making it clear that biodiversity will be driving the agenda in the future and in a short time we will see biodiversity credits applying to both urban and rural land management.

You are clearly out of step with the biodiversity agenda.

This is not about “it’s our turn now”. Creating a co-governance process requires us to reach higher to a higher vibrational plane letting go of beliefs and attachments that no longer serve us in order to learn to live from a place of love rather than fear and resistance and to create something that is greater than us. Something that will endure for 100s of years. Our ancestors have done it before; we can at least try.

In the future let us have that engagement Christine Fletcher refers to in her Forward to the 2016 IMP. Let us move beyond our mis-steps and have a truly open Hui with each of the maunga communities and truly hear what they have to say and contribute. Creating a vision together for the future of each maunga.

We can do better.

We must seek to find balance and to walk in harmony firstly with ourselves, with each other and with those who are our elders with whom we share this planet and who give us life.

We have far more in common than we have in difference.

May peace rest on you,

May tranquility be widespread,

May the sea be polished like pounamu:

A pathway for all of us this day.

Love given, love received, for all of us, together

Tiwaiwaka booklets for you.

4 November 2022