

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE OF TANYA STEVENS – COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Kia ora koutou, ko Tanya Stevens ahau.
2. I have provided planning evidence on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Aquaculture Settlement

3. A key focus of my evidence looks at the relationship between the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 and the proposed Regional Policy Statement.
4. Specifically I have in mind the following:
 - a. How objectives and policies will flow down from the Regional Policy Statement to other regional plans, particularly the regional coastal plan.
 - b. What this means for Ngāi Tahu in light of the need for the Crown to negotiate with Ngāi Tahu on an Otago Regional Agreement, under the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act.
5. In the Mana Whenua chapter hearing I talked to the experience of Ngāi Tahu having taken space under the Canterbury Regional Agreement, but that the space is located in an area which requires a non-complying activity consent under the Canterbury Regional Environmental Coastal Plan. With the benefit of the timing of the proposed RPS, I am attempting to ensure that the same, unintended consequences are not repeated in Otago.

Whole coast as customary fishery

6. A second focus of the provisions sought in Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu submission follows from cultural evidence around the entire coast being a customary fishery. This is discussed in the evidence of cultural experts, particularly Mr Edward Ellison, Mr Higgins and Mr Flack including in their kōrero at the Mana Whenua chapter hearing.
7. From a planning perspective what this means is that integrated planning and awareness of the importance of the entire coast, and fundamental relationship between the entire Otago coast and Ngāi Tahu must be woven into the proposed RPS.

Outstanding provisions

8. Following from the section 42A report, supplementary evidence and more recent discussion with Mr McLennan I have only a few outstanding submission points to raise.
9. I also note that I don't intend to duplicate what Mr Bathgate has already discussed, but that I support his kōrero.

CE-04 – Kāi Tahu associations with Otago’s coastal environment

10. Following from discussions with Mr McLennan I have amended the clause sought in Te Rūnanga submission to remove the term “commercial”. I now seek the following to form a second clause in CE-04:

Cl 2 engage in customary fisheries and other mahika kai

CE-P3 – Coastal water quality

11. Mr Bathgate has already discussed this policy. I support the drafting proposed by Mr Bathgate for the reasons described today, set out in his evidence, and in my own at para’s 86 – 93.

12. I also highlight the relevance of Te Tai o Ārai te Uru Statutory Acknowledgement which relates to the entire coast line, and also the evidence and kōrero at the Mana Whenua hearing by Mr Flack and Mr Higgins in particular. The witnesses described how they view the entire coast line as being important and fundamental to the relationship of Ngāi Tahu with the Otago coast. I consider that CE-P3 as drafted by Mr Bathgate provides for this.

CE-P11 - Aquaculture

13. Mr Bathgate has outlined his preference for the drafting as provided in Attachment one to his EIC. He has also discussed his reasons for the preference for changing the chapeau to “in particular”. I agree with those amendments.

14. Te Rūnanga continues to seek a new cl. 3 as sought in the TRoNT submission and included in Appendix 1 to the EIC of Mr Bathgate. The new clause provides an explicit link to the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act. I think it is appropriate that this is contained in CE-P11 Aquaculture to enable decision makers to consider whether or not the aquaculture development in question is being undertaken by Ngāi Tahu as a settlement outcome. Much can happen in the life of this RPS, and I am seeking to ensure that aquaculture settlement is provided for.

New policy re discharge

15. Mr Bathgate has described the reasons for a new policy on discharge into the coastal environment and the desire to develop with ORC.

16. I can clarify that I’m not wedded to wording in evidence, but consider that is a pragmatic approach and a good starting point for discussion.

17. I can confirm that it is the preference of Te Rūnanga to ensure that discharge into the coastal environment is managed well at a regional policy and planning level to prevent issues arising further down the track.