



The Commissioners of the Central Interceptor Hearing.

Dear Commissioners

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE ON BEHALF OF WATERCARE SERVICES LIMITED BY GARRY MASKILL

CULTURAL / CONSULTATION

At the close of the Central Interceptor Hearing on Tuesday 7 August Commissioner Majurey enquired as to whether there was an update on the Partnership Agreement between Te Ākitai Waiohū Iwi Authority and Watercare Services Limited. I have prepared this supplementary evidence to respond to that question; to provide further information on the consultation process which has occurred so far between Te Ākitai Waiohū and Watercare; and to share the lessons we have learned from the experience. This evidence has been considered and authorised by the Chairperson of Te Ākitai Waiohū.

Some 12 months ago Te Ākitai Waiohū and Watercare commenced consultation on the Central Interceptor Project and consideration of entering into a Partnership Agreement. The Partnership Agreement has taken several iterations to get to the stage where Watercare is satisfied with the contents and the Chairperson of Te Ākitai Waiohū is prepared to circulate it to the members of her Iwi Authority for their consideration.

The mission for the Partnership Agreement states:

The parties will seek to reinforce and strengthen a partnership through a relationship of friendship, trust, good faith, integrity, openness and collaboration to achieve mutually agreed environmental, economic, social and community outcomes which advance the interests of Te Ākitai Waiohū and the community in general.

One of the stated Objectives of the Partnership Agreement is to:

Actively promote the sustainable management of the district's natural and physical resources and the taonga of Te Ākitai Waiohū, including the restoration of the health and wellbeing of the Manukau Harbour for present and future generations, in a way that recognises and respects the cultural and spiritual relationship of Te Ākitai Waiohū with the environment and the status of Te Ākitai Waiohū as mana whenua.

As I said in my primary statement of evidence the Central Interceptor Project is complex. For the past year both Te Ākitai Waiohua and Watercare have had to work hard to get to a point of informed decision making. This has been a difficult journey for both parties and has taken substantial effort particularly on the part of Te Ākitai Waiohua who have limited resources. Watercare acknowledges and thanks Te Ākitai Waiohua for the effort and perseverance they have made to firstly understand the technical aspects of the Project and then to relate those to their interests as well as the interests of the wider community.

As a result of the lengthy consultation process Te Ākitai Waiohua was able to prepare a detailed submission. This enabled the parties to focus in on the aspects that specifically concerned them and for Watercare to respond in detail to the matters raised. This has resulted in a far greater awareness and appreciation by Watercare of the matters of concern to Te Ākitai Waiohua which enabled Watercare to respond in a positive way either by explanation of the need for particular design aspects of the Project or by modification of the design as in the case of the visual appearance of the Emergency Pressure Relief Structure at the seawall of the Mangere Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Watercare plans to undertake a full risk assessment of the Siphon's condition as soon as is physically possible. Because the Siphon is permanently full of water and is buried beneath the bed of the harbour it is not possible to adequately inspect it until it can be drained. The draining, inspection and full risk assessment will be possible and undertaken on the completion of the Central Interceptor. Watercare has agreed to include Te Akitai in the preparation of the scope of the risk assessment of the Siphon and to include cultural values assessment criteria as part of the risk assessment and decision making process.

Other matters Watercare was able to provide further information on are its commitment to a timetable for the construction and operation of the Biological Nutrient Removal Plant and Wet Weather Treatment Facility at the Mangere Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Northern Interceptor Project.

The process we have been through to date provides evidence to support the benefits of a collaborative approach to consultation. The approach requires considerable commitment to understanding one another's values and interests, early engagement, building of trust and respect for alternative views and a willingness to make changes where possible. The approach takes practice and time, but I am confident that we will become more efficient with each project we work together on.

With regards to the Central Interceptor Project, both Te Ākitai Waiohua and Watercare believe that we have come to better understand and respect one another's views, and as a consequence, are ready to commit to an on-going Partnership Agreement to the benefit of both parties and the wider community.

Garry Maskill

Watercare Services Limited

12 August 2013