

## **Special Session: Ngāti Rangiwewehi and development of the Taniwha Spring drinking water joint consent**

### **ABSTRACT**

A process to transfer traditional Māori knowledge into water management operations is demonstrated by the Taniwha Spring drinking water joint consent between Ngāti Rangiwewehi and Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC) completed in 2021 in area located northwest of the Lake Rotorua catchment.

This Special Session will provide attendees with fascinating insights into the long, complex, journey of iwi, community, and Crown agencies (RLC, the legal system and Central Government, regional council, and researchers) to today's joint consent. The consent has come after a lengthy period of turmoil between Ngāti Rangiwewehi and the Crown, and its regulatory agencies, that began when the Spring was acquired under the Public Works Act in 1966 to provide a water supply for RLC residents.

Firstly, we will explore the pre-cursors that led to the new consent, including settlement of the area by iwi and European; spring acquisition and the initial Waitangi Tribunal Claim (1991) which started iwi efforts to reclaim kaitiakitanga over Taniwha Springs; and the Treaty Settlement (2014). Then, the Session will focus on the iwi-led process that was developed for the consent with aims including assessment of 'kaitiaki flow' as part of joint consent conditions. The process, currently a template for other joint consents in the RLC area, may provide a guide to other iwi-Council joint consents in the Bay of Plenty Region.

The Session aims to bring together, for the first time, all the key elements of the process including iwi, community, the legal system, and Crown agencies. In addition, audience participation will ensure that the Session will be a memorable event for all attendees and speakers.

### **PROPOSED SPEAKERS / WORKSHOP LEADERS**

Te Rangikaheke Yvonne Moana BIDOIS QSM MMMgt (Ngāti Rangiwewehi) Iwi Chairperson and Iwi Chief Negotiator Iwi / Crown claims negotiations 2005-2014; Te Tahuhu o Tawakeheimoa Trust (TToTT) - (Ngāti Rangiwewehi Post Settlement Governance Entity) Trustee; current Ngāti Rangiwewehi working group lead (RLC and TToTT) for JRC Kaharoa Hamurana Water Supply; Tarimano Marae Trustee (Dep Chair).

Louis Bidois LLB (current District Court Judge) Pekehaua Puna (Taniwha Springs) Reserve Trustee (PPRT) Chair 2011 – current Iwi lead Joint Resource Consent (JRC) Ngongotaha Municipal Water Supply (Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC) & Pekehaua Puna Reserve Trust); current Ngāti Rangiwewehi working group lead (RLC and TToTT) for JRC Kaharoa Hamurana Water Supply; Tarimano Marae Trustee.

Hon Christopher Finlayson (past Minister for Treaty Settlements) Attorney General and Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations from 2008 to 2017.

Paul White: (current Principal Scientist, GNS Science) was groundwater science lead working with Ngāti Rangiwewehi to develop processes that resulted in the current Taniwha consent;

current science lead Ngāti Rangiwewehi working group (RLC and TToTT) for a JRC Kaharoa Hamurana Water Supply.

Hon Steve Chadwick (past Mayor Rotorua Lakes Council) Rotorua Mayor responsible for influencing return of ha of land taken under the Public Works Act to Ngāti Rangiwewehi via Pekehaua Puna Reserve Trust (November 2015). A legacy of which I am proud is the high trust relationship the Council formed with Ngāti Rangiwewehi to ensure sustainable freshwater for our wider community.

Rangimarie (Lee-Ann) Bidois DipEd (Ngāti Rangiwewehi - Taniwha consent working group): Kaitiaki Flow Ngāti Rangiwewehi working group / facilitator; current Ngāti Rangiwewehi working group (RLC and TToTT) for a JRC Kaharoa Hamurana Water Supply.