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Environmental Protection Authority and Ministry for Primary Industries
Proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land: Valuing Highly Productive Land

TE ARAWA RIVER IWI TRUST (TARIT) ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC GOALS
Whakamarohitia Ngā Wai o Waikato

Introduction:

Te Arawa River Iwi Trust (TARIT) has its genesis in the Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Raukawa and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010. The Trust represents the three Te Arawa Iwi; Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa, Ngāti Kearoa-Ngāti Tuarā, Tuhourangi-Ngāti Wāhiao, who assert manawhenua, mana o te wai, kaitiakitanga, ahi kā and mana whakahaere over the Waikato River beginning from the Huka falls through to Pohaturoa.

TARIT is committed to environmental sustainability and strategic goals:

1. Mana Tangata: Enabling our people to participate in the restoration and protection of the Waikato River, tributaries and environs.
2. Mana Taiao: Implementing measures to restore and protect the Waikato tributaries and environs.
3. Mana Mātauranga: Upholding tikanga, preserving wāhi tupuna and enhancing mātauranga of Te Arawa River Iwi.

Statement of Intent:

It has been useful to assess the proposed National Policy for highly productive land: Valuing highly productive land (NPS-HPL) against our Environmental Plan (Whakamarohitia ngā wai o Waikato), and TARIT supports the direction the Government, the Ministry for the Environment, and the Ministry for Primary Industries are undertaking to move towards protecting one of New Zealand's precious taonga, land. As highlighted within our Whakamarohitia ngā wai o Waikato environmental plan, 22% of the land within the TARIT rohe is classed as Level 3 under the land-use capability model.

TARIT agree with the proposals highlighted in the NPS-HPL and understand that a National Policy Statement sets out national direction on objectives and policies for highly productive land. However, a concern for TARIT is that, "the proposed NPS would require local authorities to identify highly productive land based on a set of defined criteria". As per our Accords with the Crown, MfE and other ministries, TARIT as a co-governing/co-managing partner believe that we should be involved in the process and co-design of identifying LUC and considering the

availability of highly productive land that affect the Upper Waikato River area. Looking ahead into the future, TARIT supports this proposal as it aligns with the the environmental sustainability and strategic goals highlighted in the aforementioned, mana tangata, mana taiao, mana mātauranga and we look forward to being actively involved in the process of the proposed National Policy Statement for highly productive land: Valuing highly productive land.

If you have any queries please direct these through to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] www.tarit.co.nz.