

**Ko Taranaki te Maunga,
Ko Tokomaru te waka,
Ko Mimitangiatua te awa,
Ko Urenui raaua ko Pukearuhe ngaa Marae,
Ko Ngaati Mutunga raaua ko Ngaati Tama ngaa iwi,
Ko Te Kekeriwai te hapu,
Ko Te Hawera te papakainga.
Ko Baker, ko McClutchie ooku whanau.
Ko Paora Laurence au.
6/2/19.**

**Attention: To Oppose -Applicant Name: Remediation (NZ)
Limited**

IRIS ID: 17-05838-3.0 and 17-05839-3.0

Activity: To discharge:

- a) waste material to land for composting; and**
- b) treated stormwater and leachate from composting operations onto and into land in circumstances where contaminants may enter water in the Haehanga Stream catchment and directly into an unnamed tributary of the Haehanga Stream**

To discharge emissions into the air, namely odour and dust, from composting operations.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this submission to contest and challenge the Notification of Consent, Doc#: 1978195 for the applicant, Remediation (NZ) Limited, Iris Id. 17-05838-3.0 and 17-05839-3.0 to discharge waste material to my tribal area of drill muds and other wastes that hold heavy metals in it, creating leachate that discharges into the Haehanga Stream and then into the Mimitangiatua and varying tributaries and water table of this area.

1. The consent was put to the Consents Manager by Kim Giles on the 24/12, Christmas Eve, which clearly highlights there was an urgency to activate the process, then quickly recommended by Colin McLellan on the 7/1/19. Under Question 3 of the process “Statutory Acknowledgements “The Iwi impacted on is not acknowledged, Ngaati Mutunga, this is in breach of Treaty Principles of “Partnership“, ”Protection of Taaonga” and being accorded the appropriate rights to the Mana Whenua of this area. No level of contamination is and ever will be acceptable into these waterways. These awa present significant cultural and food gathering for our iwi. In the last few years there has been many discharges of pollutants and in fact a continual slick flowing down the river which has impacted on the food and water quality. Whitebaiters are constantly catching whitebait that has a very unpleasant smell emanating from them. This is totally unacceptable! My whaanau has gathered kai from and lived on this awa for hundreds of years, it is where I caught my first ika at 4 years old in 1974, it is where my koro taught me how to whitebait and set net for flounder, kahawai, mullet, herrings and also eel. In fact, in 1981 my nan and I caught 136 fish of the fore mentioned ika in our net. “Ngāti Mutunga utilised the entire length of each awa for food gathering. The river mouths provided a plentiful supply of pipi, pūpū (cat’s eye),

pātiki (flounder), kahawai and other fish. Inanga (whitebait) were caught along the banks of the river. Tuna (eel) and piharau (lamprey eel) were caught in the upper reaches of the river. Piharau were caught using whakaparu, which was a technique developed by placing rarauhe (bracken fern) in the rapids of the river in times of flood.” (4.3 REMEDIATION NEW ZEALAND Assessment of Cultural Effects Uruti Facility – Renewal of Discharge Consents)

This awa is where I bless myself and my whaanau and my childrens’ placentas are buried. The Mimi River has always been an integral part of the social, spiritual and physical lifestyle of the Ngāti Mutunga people. Ngāti Mutunga also used the Mimi River for baptizing. **This has been Takahia due to the ‘slop’ and lack of water integrity flowing in our Ancestral wai!**

It is where we swam and bathed. I have bathed there since early 1970s now, noway! When members of Ngāti Mutunga were sick or had skin problems they were taken to the river to be healed. (3.1 REMEDIATION NEW ZEALAND Assessment of Cultural Effects Uruti Facility – Renewal of Discharge Consents)

This will be impossible now, in fact it's getting harder to catch fish, rare to catch a decent kai of whitebait, too dirty to swim in and bless taonga and ourselves in it. This is a travesty and a catastrophic disaster to nature by granting this worm farm consent to facilitate their operations in a natural bush setting that has a high water table that flows from it, which in turns leaches leachate and heavy metals into our sacred wai! Exposure to hazardous waste can affect human health, children being more vulnerable to these pollutants. In fact, direct exposure can lead to diseases through chemical exposure as the release of chemical waste into the environment leads to chemical poisoning.

The latest TRC monitoring report (2016-17) <https://trc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Environment/Monitoring-Industry/MR2017-RemediationNZ.pdf> says:

1- minor exceedances of concentration of un-ionized ammonia discharge from the wetland treatment system. This is detrimental to the health of the waterways and to the health of people and waterlife. Exposure to high concentrations of ammonia in air causes immediate burning of the eyes, nose, throat and respiratory tract and can result in blindness, lung damage or death. Inhalation of lower concentrations can cause coughing, and nose and throat irritation.

2- salinity is 'trending up' in the groundwater. The average ocean salinity is 35ppt and the average river water salinity is 0.5ppt or less. This means that in every kilogram (1000 grams) of seawater, 35 grams are salt. This is not acceptable in the Haehanga as unlike the Mimitangiatua it is not a tidal awa and the it will have adverse impact on the fish and macrovertebrates that are used to fresh water.

3- one trace result of toluene was found in one groundwater monitoring round. This as we know is highly flammable and obviously highly toxic to our waterway and organisms with in it.

4- petroleum hydrocarbons was observed in one surface water sample of the Haehanga Stream - 'marginally above the limit of detection'. The Haehanga Stream flows into the Mimitangiatua and this slick has been observed by many people whitebaiting on the awa.

5- frequently cattle were observed accessing the stream and across the site. Another form of polluting our awa, with what appears to be a complete disregard for it.

6- administrative performance requires improvement - screening test of drilling wastes prior to arrival at site was not undertaken (no records). This indicates there is a lack of transparency and honesty around this whole operation. What else is being conducted out there and where is their kaitiakitanga being executed around day to day operations.

7-Barium-is in drill mud. Because of its high chemical reactivity, barium is never found in nature as a free element. Although barium carbonate is relatively insoluble in water, it is toxic to humans because it is soluble in the gastrointestinal tract.

- the composting operation and drilling mud processing generates a significant amount of leachate and contaminated stormwater from the drilling wastes pad (DWP) and two composting pads... This is irresponsible management or really non management and it surprises me that a company as disrespectful as this, to our environment can be granted consent to operate.

I can tell you significant areas on the Mimitangiatua where my tipuna gathered clay for moko, waka were embedded in the banks, places to bless taonga, whare of Moriori were, pa sites are, where varying people were born and died, places where kakahi were, varying parts of the awa to whitebait at varying tides. “The tūpuna had considerable knowledge of whakapapa, traditional trails and tauranga waka, places for gathering kai and other taonga, ways in which to use the resources of the Mimi River, the relationship of people with the river and their dependence on it, and tikanga for the proper and sustainable utilisation of resources. All of these values remain important to the

people of Ngāti Mutunga today.” (3.1 REMEDIATION NEW ZEALAND Assessment of Cultural Effects Uruti Facility)

Our awa represent the past, present and future, at the moment the Haehanga is presently at extreme risk as too is the Mimitangiatua. “To the people of Ngāti Mutunga, all the rivers and their respective valleys are of the utmost importance because of their physical, spiritual and social significance in the past, present and future. “(3.1 REMEDIATION NEW ZEALAND Assessment of Cultural Effects Uruti Facility)

It saddens me that the table –“ Adverse effects and Proposed Mitigation Effects of concern to Ngāti Mutunga Mitigation “ is in fact being ignored.” They want to be able to safely drink the water, swim in the river and catch and eat kai species from the streams and rivers. Complete riparian planting Detailed and comprehensive Management plans will be developed and these are to have input from Ngāti Mutunga”. **There is no way that water will be drinkable, in fact this statement is contrary to the truth.**

“Water coming out of the site should be as good as that going into it. Monitoring plan and reporting to show the water existing the site is as good as when it enters (Groundwater and surface water)”. **Water coming out has already proven not be as good as when it enters, ask any whitebaiter who whitebait on the Mimitangiatua as the effects are obvious way down that awa let alone the Haehanga.**

“Engage a person to take samples and prepare reports weekly”. **Where is the evidence that this is happening? Is it an authority with no vested interest?”** Utilisation of proposed dam to add water to the stream (dilution) during low flows. Ensure that clean water coming from the catchment is diverted around the active site areas so that it does not become contaminated.

Waste water from the site should be discharged to land and not directly into the streams”. **This has already been compromised! Go for a walk and that will be obvious!**

“Greater utilisation of the wetland. Commission the additional irrigation area. The Haehanga stream and tributaries on the site are not fenced and there is no riparian planting (even though this was a requirement of previous consents). Stock are free to roam through the streams. Complete riparian planting and fencing within the Remediation (NZ) site (in progress)”. **How long has this organization been in place for and still this is not done, words are only words, action has not been done!**

“The progress can be monitored by Kaumatua when they visit the site. The culverts were perched, and fish are unable to swim upstream – fish passage must be maintained and enhanced if possible. Ensure culverts have been repaired”. **This is prohibiting the migratory flow of our ancestral ika, hence creating enormous detrimental effects to the breeding cycle of kokopu, koaro etc, how can this be permissible?**

“This can be checked by Kaumatua when they visit the site. Landpro Ltd © 8 Effects of concern to Ngāti Mutunga Mitigation Ensure monitoring and repair of culverts is included in management plans to avoid this happening again”. **Where is the action that has been done to ensure this does not happen again?**

**Nga mihi pono me Rangimarie ki a koutou,
Whaia te ara tootika!**

**Na
Paora Laurence**