



Preliminary Report – Turanga Whenua, Turanga Wai, Turanga Tangata
“Tangata Whenua Viewpoints on Recycling Waste Water in Turanga”

My name is Willie Te Aho. I hold a BA/LLB and MBA. From 1992 to 1996 I was the Chief Executive for Te Runanga o Turanganui a Kiwa Trust. I was the lead negotiator for the Rongowhakaata Tiriti o Waitangi Settlements in 2011. I am the lead negotiator for Te Aitanga a Mahaki.

Through evidence to the Hearings Committee and the Planning Tribunal in 1993, the pakeke of Turanga iwi noted: “Toitu te marae a Tane (Mahuta), toitu te marae a Tangaroa, toitu te Iwi”

What this means in simple English is that if the domain of Tane Mahuta, the god of all land based flora and fauna, is nurtured and prospers and the domain of Tangaroa, the god of the sea and all the life within it, is nurtured prospers then the people will prosper. There must be balance.

The Iwi of Turanga then, and now, object to the disposal of waste water (including human remains and faeces) in to the sea. To discharge human waste and remains directly in to the area where you gather food is repugnant to the Turanga Iwi world view. Human waste must be discharged to land.

10 Hui with whanau, hapu, Iwi and land owners within Turanganui a Kiwa were held from 12 May 2019 to 29 June 2019. Information hui to discuss this issue were held at Te Poho o Rawiri marae, Te Kuri a Tuatai marae, Tarere marae, Takipu marae, Waihirere (Parihimanihi) marae, Takitimu marae and Muriwai marae. Further meetings were held at Tapuihikitia marae and also in the offices of Te Runanganui a Kiwa. A wananga (in depth discussion) is to be held on 26 July 2019

From the Tangata Whenua hui held over the past month the common view is summarised as follows:

1. No discharge of any waste water in to the moana;
2. Separation of the mortuary waste from other waste water and separate discharge to land;
3. Further treatment of the non mortuary waste water;
4. Discharge of the non mortuary waste water in to separate land based option;
5. Research land base treatment options and how the recycled water can be used.

Apart from concerns over how the markets perceive produce grown from recycled water, there is support from Tangata Whenua for trials, investigations, and pilot studies being carried out into the methods for land based treatment of waste water and the possible uses of that water once it has gone through land based treatment.

A Maturanga Maori group (tikanga/Maori values based research), selected from whanau who attended the information hui, is holding a wananga on 26 July 2019 to finalise the brief for any future research that is to be carried out. The outcomes of the wananga together with the minutes of the information hui will form the final report.

Willie Te Aho 18 July 2019