

Statement of Evidence of Hemi Toia

1.0 Personal introduction and my role with Ngāti Koata.

He kaimahi ahau mō te iwi o Ngāti Koata
Ko au te Kaiwhakahaere matua mō Koata Limited
Ko Hemi Toia ahau

1.1 My name is Hemi Toia and I work for Ngāti Koata as the Chief Executive for its commercial arm Koata Limited. I also represent Ngāti Koata as a Director on the ‘Maitahi’ entity making this Private Plan Change Application with our neighbouring land owner the ‘Bayview’ entity.

1.2 It is my view and Ngāti Koata’s view that this Private Plan Change 28 is an opportunity for Ngāti Koata, along with its partners, to effectively and magnificently demonstrate sustainable and beneficial “taonga – tangata – taiao – ohaoa”; “cultural – social – environmental – economic” development, not just for Ngāti Koata whanau, not just for iwi/maori, but for our whole community of Nelson/Whakatū.

2.0 A summary of Ngāti Koata’s mana whenua status regarding the site (Cultural).

Ko Maungatapu te maunga, Ko Maitahi te awa, Ko Te Aorere te tai.

2.1 Ngāti Koata takes its name from the ancestress Koata who was born c. 1617.

2.2 Ngāti Koata were the first of the five Northern Iwi to establish themselves as mana whenua and many intermarriages between the people of Ngāti Koata and the iwi of Kurahaupō (Ngāti Kuia, Rangitāne ki Wairau and Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō) occurred. Ngāti Koata has maintained customary and mana whenua interests in the Top of the South Island, a region often referred to as Te Taihū.

2.3 Statutory Acknowledgements and Deeds of Recognition (known as Ngā Tapuwae o Ngā Tūpuna, in the Ngāti Kōata settlement) register the special association Ngāti Kōata has with an area and are recognised under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Historic Places Act 1993. Ngāti Koata holds a Statutory Acknowledgement for the Maitai/Maitahi River and its tributaries in recognition of the awa being an important source of food, water and connectivity to other important waterways.

3.0 The significance of Kākā Hill to Ngāti Koata and Te Tauihu iwi (Cultural).

3.1 Kākā Hill is important for the link between Ngāti Koata and Ngāti Kuia in several ways. Te Whiro was one of the Kurahaupō rangatira that accompanied the attackers in the battle of Waiorua on Kapiti Island where they were defeated. Ngāti Koata rangatira Tekateka, Tekateka Wharehia, had accompanied other rangatira in searching for Tāwhe (Tepene Nukumai), the (half-)brother of Te Pātete (of Ngāti Koata), after Tāwhe was captured at Waiorua by Kurahaupō hapū. The safe return of Tāwhe was accompanied by a tuku (ceding/gift of whenua) from paramount rangatira Tūtepourangi of Ngāti Kuia, Rangitāne, and Ngāti Apa. This tuku was accepted by Te Putu of Ngāti Koata. Subsequently, Ngāti Koata conducted a takahia te whenua to cement the peace with the various tribes of the Nelson region after which Tekateka took charge of a Ngāti Koata settlement at Whakatū. The settlement had a mixed company of tangata whenua.

3.2 One important burial of note is the ancestor Te Whiro, who is buried on what is known as “Kaka Hill” today. Te Whiro is a descendant of Ngāti Kuia, Rangitāne ki Wairau and Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō. Te Whiro was a prominent Rangatira and a chief at Whakatū during his time. We cannot say with absolute accuracy whether he is the only Rangatira buried there. The proposed gifting of Kākā Hill to Ngāti Koata by the PPC 28 Maitahi applicants is a positive outcome for this project and provides our people and especially Ngāti Kuia with more opportunity to undertake Kaitiakitanga specifically, in regards to Ngāti Kuia Wāhi Tapu and Urupa. Ngāti Koata have already commenced the process of engagement with Ngāti Kuia on this very important kaupapa and Ngāti Kuia are appreciative of this opportunity as both iwi seek to further enhance our peaceful relationship envisioned by the original tuku.

3.3 Ngāti Koata acknowledge and thank our Maitahi partners for this generous and healing gift.

4.0 Ngāti Koata’s aspiration for the development of this land should the Private Plan Change be approved (Social – Economic).

4.1 In 1840 several Ngāti Koata chiefs signed Te Tiriti o Waitangi on Rangitoto ki te Tonga (D’Urville Island).

4.2 On the 21 December 2012 Ngāti Koata signed a Deed of Settlement with the Crown. This Deed of Settlement included the following apology:

“The Crown apologises to Ngāti Koata for its acts and omissions which have breached the Crown’s obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi. These include: the Crown’s failure to adequately protect the interests of Ngāti Koata during the process by which land was granted to the New Zealand Company; the failure to provide sufficient reserves, including ‘tenths’ reserves; the administration of the tenths reserves; the failure to adequately protect Ngāti Koata interests during Crown purchases between 1853 and 1856; the operation and impact of the native land laws on

Ngāti Koata land; the failure to effectively implement the landless natives reserves scheme; and the failure to ensure Ngāti Koata retained sufficient land for their future needs.”

4.3 This important historical context, the real and tangible lost opportunity for Ngāti Koata whanau and their descendants with us today fuels the aspiration, the inspiration, the determination Ngāti Koata have for this whenua and its development should this Private Plan Change be approved. Tō Tātou Kāinga (Our Home) will be a Koata led housing project that will, along with our partners expertise, provide whanau with healthy homes, a secure home base for whanau social and economic development and a real opportunity for whanau home ownership.

4.4 Some opponents make the claim that this land, privately owned land, should be retained for the recreational and well-being benefit of the wider community. In addition to the historical realities touched on very briefly already, Ngāti Koata wish to inform these opponents and the public in general of the numerous ways in which Ngāti Koata have already sacrificed much for the wider community good:

- ❖ access to significant parcels of Ngāti Koata owned whenua in the Maitai Valley is already extensively used by the wider community for many recreational purposes, including walking, running and biking;
- ❖ access to Ngāti Koata owned land for important telecommunications infrastructure for the benefit of the wider community has been made available;
- ❖ under the inauspicious threat of applying the Public Works Act 1981 to acquire land that was part of the very recent Treaty Settlement negotiations, land was exchanged with the City of Nelson for a water treatment plant for the benefit of the wider community of Nelson; and
- ❖ it is also anticipated that the wider community will have and enjoy access to the environmental and recreational value of Kākā Hill when this development and Kākā Hill restoration are completed.

4.5 The moemoeā, dream or vision for Ngāti Koata and the various family names associated with this Private Plan Change, is to create a development that current and future generations will be proud of.

5.0 Ngāti Koata’s contribution through the lens of Mātauranga Māori and Ngāti Koata tikanga (Cultural - Environment).

“Ka ora te tangata, ka ora te whenua - when the people are well, the land is well.”

5.1 Ngāti Koata’s Taiao strategic responsibility and intent is to maintain, strengthen and develop their kaitiakitanga and relationship with their environment.

5.2 The management of Te Taiao is dependent on how natural attributes are managed and utilised, preserved and conserved, restored, and replenished for their own intrinsic worth against developments and impacts of pollution and natural disasters. Ngāti Koata prides itself on maintaining a strong commitment to the environment within its rohe and beyond.

5.3 This site can expand upon Ngāti Koata’s kaitiaki and manākitanga obligations through direct engagement and participation by its members and partners. The site has the benefit of being within close proximity to Ngāti Koata whānau, enabling regular access and connectivity. Engagement in the restoration actions and restored biodiversity can enhance their personal wellbeing, for when the people are well – the land is well. Native plantings including rongoā (traditional medicine and taonga species and practices) could enable a sustainable cultural harvest for the treatment of common ailments and broader cultural use. Transfer of knowledge from one generation to the next can be enabled through on land wananga learnings. Other iwi cultural and environmental connections to the whenua can be explored and celebrated also.

5.4 Ngāti Koata are already involved in the restoration of native species in the lower reaches of Sharlands Creek (neighbouring land to the PPC 28 site) with the first year of the Peneamine Restoration Project. Ngāti Koata whānau are invested in this work, and the site has high cultural significance for Ngāti Koata. Another environmental restoration project underway is the Tekateka Project, the restoration and expansion of significant native ngahere remnants on the northeast face of Kākā Hill (land owned by Ngāti Koata). This project aims to restore a site of high cultural and ecological value with the primary focus on restoring and protecting an old growth forest remnant which historically has provided habitat for Kaka, Kiwi, and Kakariki, and still supports Kakarūwai, Miromiro, Kereru, and Korimako. This along with restoration work on Kākā Hill within the PPC 28 site would provide a halo effect for species present and reintroduced with the nearby Brook Waimarama Sanctuary. The Ngāti Koata Kaumatua Council has been involved in both these projects guiding the projects including their naming. These projects are supported by Te Tauihu iwi partners of the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 A housing development and restoration of the biodiversity in the Kākā Valley would restore and strengthen ancestral ties to the awa and whenua, contribute to the kaitiakitanga of these taonga, enable more access to the taiao and its mātauranga, and therefore strengthen the cultural base and identity for Ngāti Koata whānau as well as the health of the whenua and awa.

“Ka ora te tangata, ka ora te whenua - when the people are well, the land is well.”

7.0 Ngāti Koata’s support of PPC 28.

7.1 It is my view and Ngāti Koata’s view that this Private Plan Change 28 is an opportunity for Ngāti Koata, along with its partners, to effectively and magnificently demonstrate sustainable and beneficial “taonga – tangata – taiao – ohaoha”; “cultural – social – environmental – economic” development, not just for Ngāti Koata whānau, not just for iwi/maori, but for our whole community of Nelson/Whakatū.

Hemi D Toia
Koata Limited Chief Executive