

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

Ngā mihi kia koe Mel, Kaumatua mō te iwi o Ngāti Koata

E ngā rangatira o te hui nei, e mihi ana.

Thank you Mel, Ngāti Koata kaumatua for your mihi, greeting and opening of this Hearing/hui.

Greetings to the panel of commissioners: Hill, TePania, Wratt and Mark-Brown.

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.

This presentation is not a technical presentation, that will be left to our very capable experts. It is my whakaaro/thoughts through the lens of Ngāti Koata.

For the past 5 1/2-years I have had the pleasure and joy of working for te iwi o Ngāti Koata in my role as Chief Executive of Ngāti Koata's commercial and economic arm Koata Limited. This is a role I previously enjoyed for Te Rarawa in Te Hiku, Kaitaia. The responsibility and expectation of such a role is not lost on me and my personal conviction and determination is to do all I possibly can to advance the economic well-being of maori/iwi with the belief that sustainable economic development helps to support the cultural, social and environmental well-being of our people, our communities, and our home, Aotearoa.

To borrow a phrase coined by John Elkington, a world authority on corporate responsibility and sustainable capitalism "planet – people – profit." It is my view that maori long understood this sustainable connectivity and priority well before Mr Elkington. **Side note:** the Elkington whanau are of Ngāti Koata descent, but Mr John Elkington is clearly not, otherwise he would've turned his 3-P phrase from a triple bottom line sustainable measure into the iwi/maori quadruple bottom line sustainable measure of "cultural – social – environmental – economic."

It is my view and Ngāti Koata's view that this Private Plan Change 28 being considered by yourselves 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 whanau, not just for iwi/maori, but for our whole community of Nelson/Whakatū.

Over the past 2 ½ years including this whole Plan Change application and submission process, Ngāti Koata have been on the receiving end of some comments, spoken and written, that have been less than complimentary and at times bordering on patronising and even race biased. Ngāti Koata have remained silent, but out of respect to the people of Ngāti Koata and to iwi/maori in general I feel compelled to respond, albeit briefly, as follows:

- Ngāti Koata are not part of this Partnership just to provide a maori voice that our partners can hide behind, we are part of this because we bring something unique and special that makes this whole development even better;
- this opportunity will bring significant benefits to whanau, and yes, we are well qualified to know the needs and opportunities that are suitable for iwi/whanau;
- it is ok for iwi/maori to be engaged in commercial activities that create profit;
- Ngāti Koata fully understand the value and meaning of sustainable ‘cultural – social – environmental – economic’ development; and
- as tangata whenua Ngāti Koata do have a legal and moral right to support this proposal.

### Kākā Hill

Kākā Hill is culturally significant for Te Tau Ihu iwi and especially for the relationship between Ngāti Koata and Ngāti Kuia. 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. The cultural restoration of Kākā Hill will be significant to us all.

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

On a broader issue, comments have been made that this land, privately owned land, at the front and to the side of the Maitai Valley should be retained for the recreational and well-being benefit of the wider community. 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 circa 700 ha of Ngāti Koata owned whenua in the heart of the Maitai Valley – think Codgers, Fringed Hill, Sharlands and Maitai Face - are 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 to acquire land that was part of the very recent Treaty Settlement negotiations, land was exchanged for a water treatment plant for the benefit of the wider community of Nelson; and
- ❖ it is anticipated that the wider community will have and enjoy access to the cultural, environmental and recreational value of Kākā Hill when this housing development and Kākā Hill restoration are completed, something that has not been available for the many decades the said land has been in private ownership.

So please excuse me if I do not wilt under the claim “for the benefit of the wider community” this Plan Change cannot proceed.

I do however wish to thank all those who have submitted and even those who have opposed.

Your comments have challenged us, in fact forced us to be even better than we had set out to be. Our experts in weighing the responses, in arriving at Joint Witness Statements with your experts have ensured a better outcome for all.

I thank our experts for their efforts, expertise, enthusiasm and response to doing things better – ngā mihi nui kia koutou katoa.

### **What is Ngāti Koata’s aspiration for the development of this land?**

To answer that, we need some important historical context.

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

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 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.”

“The failure to ensure Ngāti Koata retained sufficient land for their future needs.”

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 development and a real opportunity to meet the home ownership needs of whanau.

But, No Plan Change – The historic failure continues.

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

Ngāti Koata’s Taiao strategic responsibility and intent is to maintain, strengthen and develop their kaitiakitanga and relationship with their environment. Ngāti Koata prides itself on maintaining a strong commitment to the environment within its rohe and beyond.

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 whanau 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 Kakaruwai, 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 within the nearby Brook Waimarama Sanctuary.

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 whanau 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.”

#### **In closing:**

My 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. The perspective of attaching ones family and iwi name to a development, to the creation of something this significant is sobering and full of great responsibility, a responsibility not lost on those involved in shaping this moemoeā, in making this vision a reality.

With my heart and my mind, I see:

- ❖ a vibrant community that connects with and enhances its natural environment and setting
- ❖ a vibrant community that connects with each other, people connecting with people
- ❖ a place people/whanau can call home “tō tātou kāinga”
- ❖ a place whanau/families can buy their first home, their next home, their last home
- ❖ a place people can connect with tangata whenua – socially, culturally and environmentally
- ❖ a place where Ngāti Koata whanau and maori can heal and re-establish their place, their future with stability, with confidence and with opportunity

It is my view and Ngāti Koata’s view that this Private Plan Change 28 being considered by yourselves 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.

Nō reira, tēnā tātou katoa.