

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER**

**IN THE MATTER**

of the Resource Management Act 1991 ("**RMA**")

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER**

of a Notice of Requirement to designate the  
Ruakiwi Reservoir Alteration to Designation.

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF JO KUKUTAI**

**Dated: 19 December 2025**

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This statement of evidence is submitted on behalf of: Ngaati Maahanga, Ngaati Tamainupoo, Ngaati Koroki-Kahukura and Ngaati Hauaa as mana whanau engaged in the Ruakiwi Reservoir project. I acknowledge Ngaati Wairere as mana whenua and Waikato-Tainui.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### Qualifications and Experience

*Jo Kukutai*

2.1 My name is Jo Kukutai, I am the Chair of Ngaa Uri o Maahanga Trust Board and within mana whenua, I represent Ngaati Maahanga. I hold a Diploma in Business Computing, Bachelor of Information Technology, Bachelor of Laws, Master of Social Science (Geography) and am currently completing a Doctorate of Philosophy in Environmental Studies. I am an accredited RMA Commissioner.

2.2 I am here today representing our mana whenua collective of Ngaati Maahanga, Ngaati Tamainupoo, Ngaati Koroki-Kahukura and Ngaati Hauaa for the proposed designation conditions.

### Mana Whenua engagement with the Requiring Authority and the proposed designation conditions

2.3 Mana whenua engaged with the Requiring Authority

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 29 Oct 2025 | Reviewed the public consultations submissions and the draft consent conditions |
| 11 Nov 2025 | Discussed the draft consent conditions and associated management plans         |
| 3 Dec 2025  | Revised and endorsed the draft consent conditions                              |

## 3. MATTERS OF SIGNIFICANCE

3.1 Mana whenua sees that the approval of these proposed designation conditions (16 December 2025) in their current form would further support our mana whenua aspirations in the overall Ruakiwi Reservoir project.

3.2 Mana whenua is confident that these proposed conditions from the Requiring Authority upholds to Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato and supports the exercise of kaitiakitanga for this project.

**4. CONCLUSION**

4.1 To conclude, mana whenua comprising of: Ngaati Maahanga, Ngaati Tamainupoo, Ngaati Koroki-Kahukura, Ngaati Hauaa endorse the proposed designation conditions (16 December 2025) from the Requiring Authority as attached to the evidence of Mr Chris Dawson, dated 19 December 2025.

**Dated:** 19 December 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Kukutai', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Jo Kukutai**

Mana whenua representative