



Friends of
Taupō Swamp
& Catchment

Submission from Friends of Taupō Swamp and Catchment Inc

28 September 2023

Re: Kāinga Ora Northern Growth Area

Members of FOTSC wish to make the following submission points following the locally held public meetings:

1. We urge Kāinga Ora

To take immediate steps to put in place a formal engagement process with active interest groups in the Porirua Area. This includes Plimmerton Residents' Association, Pukerua Bay Residents' Association, Paremata Residents' Association. These groups along with Friends of Taupō Swamp & Catchment Inc (FOTSC), Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet (GOPI), Queen Elizabeth National Trust (QEII NT), Forest and Bird (Kapiti), Porirua Harbour Trust (PHT) have made extensive submissions to local, regional and national planning processes such as –

- Key Native Ecosystem Operational Plan for Taupō Swamp Complex 2020-2025. GWRC. (2019)
- Porirua Draft Growth Strategy (2019)
- PCC Annual Plan (2020/21)
- Porirua District Plan Review (2020)
- Plimmerton Farm Plan Change (2020)
- Proposed Amendments to National Wetland Provisions... (2021)
- PCC Variation I (2022)

Many of the groups mentioned above were involved in some way in the thinking around the formation of the newly published *Friends of Taupō Swamp & Catchment Strategic and Operational Plan 2023-2028* which is attached to this submission.

FOTSC works with many key partners in its restoration and advocacy objectives.

2. We and other local groups currently lack any meaningful representation 'around the table' and asking us to 'make a submission' is not appropriate for such a high stakes and lengthy development plan, the details of which are still not in place.

Feedback tells us that many suffer "submitter fatigue" and see the process as shallow at best, undemocratic at worst.

3. FOTSC strongly advocates for a 'voice for the environment' around the longer term governance table - along with PCC, Mana Whenua, GW and Kāinga Ora whom we see there at this point. Landowner and developer interests come first in the current scenario. Given the very active community involvement in local issues this could be seen as being a disrespectful and naïve approach to the most wide reaching green space development ever planned for Porirua.
4. The powers inherent in the new SDP process seem to allow local and district planning to be overridden by the needs of this development as they occur. This lies at the heart of what FOTSC and many of our partner groups find so distasteful about what we are seeing in the Kāinga Ora planning information to date. This is looking to us like a very undemocratic process and in our view is already marginalising people who have poured thousands of hours into caring for the local whenua
5. We urge that the recommendations of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Implementation Programme 2019 remain at the heart of any change in land use planned in the catchment
6. We urge that climate change principles need to be explicit in any planning - design principles must anticipate effects of climate change (some of those affects we are already seeing). Climate Change mitigation must be anticipated right from the start and needs to involve more comprehensive thinking than just talk around natural hazards and infrastructure.

Judy McKoy

Chair

Friends of Taupō Swamp and Catchment Inc

Judymckoy@xtra.co.nz

Tauposwamp.org

0212639844

