

Statement of Evidence of Yvonne Takau on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou – Summary

1. My evidence describes the Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) process relating to this proposal. I was the main author of the CIA, which identified the following areas of concern:
 - a) Recognition of the rakatirataka rights and kaitiakitaka obligations of mana whenua;
 - b) The protection and enhancement of waterbodies and indigenous biodiversity, including remnant wetlands and the coast; and
 - c) The protection of archaeological and ancestral landscape values.¹

2. Following completion of the CIA in 2020, the Applicant reduced the landfill footprint and has realigned McLaren Gully Road to avoid impacts on wetlands. The primary concern for Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou was the potential for adverse impacts on waterways. Te Rūnaka determined that the mitigation measures that were proposed by the applicant, as well as the changes to the landfill footprint and road design, were sufficient to address and provide for those concerns.² In particular, Te Rūnaka is satisfied that the proposal avoids impacts on wetlands, and that potential downstream impacts are addressed by the proposed conditions for managing leachate and stormwater.

3. I agree with Mr Dale's assessment of the relevant planning provisions. My evidence discusses policies in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM 2020) and the Te Mana o te Wai provisions in the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 (PORPS) that I consider are of particular relevance to the mana whenua submissions.³

4. With respect to Te Mana o Te Wai, I consider that the application is consistent with supporting Te Mana o Te Wai because:
 - a) The design of the landfill incorporates a lining system and systems for collection and diversion of leachate and stormwater that will ensure that these will not contaminate groundwater or enter the downstream waterways.
 - b) The landfill will largely be built into the natural topography of the site, allowing the use of the natural gully system and the natural containment of contaminants.
 - c) A robust monitoring regime is proposed.

¹ Paragraph 17 of my evidence.

² Paragraphs 18 and 19 of my evidence.

³ Paragraphs 20 to 32 of my evidence.

- d) The rakatirataka of mana whenua is recognised, and the ability for them to exercise kaitiakitaka is provided for, by the applicant's commitment to ongoing engagement with Te Rūnaka and the opportunity for Te Rūnaka to provide input into development of the Landfill Management Plan (LMP) and annual reviews of its effectiveness.⁴

Comment on Proposed Conditions

5. As I have stated in my evidence, Te Rūnaka are supportive of the conditions proposed by the applicant. However, I wish to respond to the question posed by the Commissioners on condition 113 regarding Te Rūnaka involvement in monitoring programmes.
6. The Commissioners have suggested that the condition should specify the parts of the monitoring programme that Te Rūnaka will be involved in. While I agree it would be desirable to provide certainty about this matter, it would not be appropriate to do this without engagement with Te Rūnaka. Rather than a condition specifying how mana whenua will be involved in monitoring, I recommend instead a condition that provides for an engagement process with Te Rūnaka on the design of the monitoring programme. Such a condition would require:
- Development of a plan setting out what aspects of monitoring Te Rūnaka wish to be involved in;
 - The process of engagement between the applicant and Te Rūnaka to develop the plan;
 - How Te Rūnaka will be resourced to carry out this monitoring;
 - A deadline for when the Plan will be in place, which should be before monitoring starts.



Yvonne Takau

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⁴ Paragraphs 34 to 39 and Appendix 1 of my evidence.