Te Kākahu o Hakitekura

WILDING PINE ERADICATION AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PLAN

Te Kākahu o Hakitekura – The Cloak of Hakitekura.

The removal of wilding pines component of Powerhouse Fast-Track Substantive Application (PFSA). The PFSA is a staged, 15-year program for the removal of wilding pines and restoration of native vegetation across Te Taumata o Hakitekura (Ben Lomond) Reserve and adjacent land.

Poipoia te kākano kia pūawai – nurture the seed and it will blossom.

Whakapapa - (transitive verb) give history.

In order to understand Te Ao Māori values when referring to the eradication of introduced noxious wilding pines and the restoration of native vegetation, the recloaking (Te Kākahu) of Te Taumata o Hakitekura, it's always best to remind readers of the aroha, manaaki and kaitiakitanga that Māori have for Papatuanuku.

When Rakinui and Papatūānuku were separated by their son Tāne, in order to protect the dignity of his mother he cloaked her with his children the trees and filled the land with birds and others and from this task he is known as Tāne-mahuta. This story reflects how mana whenua Kāi Tahu see their relationship with the whenua and te taiao. They see themselves as kaitiaki of the land and the environment. They see the land, the environment and the lakes and waterways as a living embodiment of Papatūanuku.

Hakitekura was the daughter of Kāti Māmoe Chief Tū Wiriroa and to honour her achievement as the first person to swim across Lake Whakatipu Wai-māori many landmarks in the area were named after her. Including the high level where she is said to have planned her historic swim te Taumata o Hakitekura. This pūrākau (legend) illustrates the Kāi Tahu connection and whakapapa to Te Taumata o Hakitekura.

All these connections are acknowledged in legislation known as the Ngāi Tahu settlement 1998 - https://www.beehive.govt.nz/feature/ngai-tahu-settlement-139.

Whakamana

Whakamana- (verb) (-a,-hia,-ia,-ngia,-tia) to give authority to, give effect to, give prestige to, confirm, enable, authorise, legitimise, empower, validate, enact, grant.

This Te Kākahu o Hakitekura project proposes wilding pine eradication and the restoration of native vegetation across Te Taumata o Hakitekura and adjacent land. It supports and enables the values of mana whenua Kāi Tahu.

Although this proposal does not speak for the voice of iwi, it does seek to uplift the mauri of te taiao and te whenua.

Te Kākahu o Hakitekura - The recloaking of Te Taumata o Hakitekura and adjacent land will whakamana the goals and ambitions of multiple parties by restoring native vegetation.

The restoration of **mountain beech** (tawhairauriki) forests would restore to the area a tree that was iconic for this area. https://ngaitahu.iwi.nz/opportunities-and-resources/publications/te-karaka/he-aitaka-a-tane-silence-of-the-beech/

The mountain beech was a significant part of the Whakatipu wai-maori ecosystem. Whereas the wilding pine is toxic to the environment and does not allow any other vegetation to co-exist.

Taonga Species

The planting of native vegetation would support Te Kākahu, the recloaking, including restoring kōwhai, matai, mountain tōtara, tree daisies/ hakeke and many other trees and shrubs. This would allow and support the re-introduction of taonga species or create better viable ecosystems to allow those already established to flourish, including the kārearea (NZ falcon), pekapeka (NZ bat) and many other bird species. Further, already existing Lizard populations will benefit from this supportive ecosystem.

The current remnant beech stands including the circa 200-hectare beech forest higher up the One Mile Valley enable the opportunity to support Taonga Species populations with the planned **Te Taumata o Hakitekura Predator-free Sanctuary** on public land and **Fernhill Heights Predator-free Sanctuary** on private land are both promoted by this PSFA. Bowen Peak Ltd would significantly promote the interests of mana whenua and also the QLDC Te Taumata o Hakitekura Ben Lomond and Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Reserve Management Plan (RMP) if these predator-free sanctuaries were to succeed.

Te Kākahu o Hakitekura

Te Kākahu o Hakitekura is a project that recognises that Ngāi Tahu has a Cultural, Spiritual and Traditional association with the area and especially the adjacent Lake Whakatipu wai-māori a statutory acknowledgement area. It recognises that through the Ngāi Tahu Settlement 1989 that the Runaka located in Otākou, Murihiku and beyond carry the responsibility of kaitiaki in relation to this area.

The recloaking of Te Taumata o Hakitekura Ben Lomond will support the restoration of and give effect to Ngāi Tahu **Mahika Kai** as per the Crowns settlement offer. Mahika kai properly refers to Ngāi Tahu interests in traditional food and other natural resources and the places where those resources are obtained.

Te Kākahu o Hakitekura will enable mana whenua to see and be part of efforts to protect some of the 49 bird species and 54 plant species **(taonga species)** many of which would have prospered in the prehuman flora and fauna that existed here hundreds of years ago.

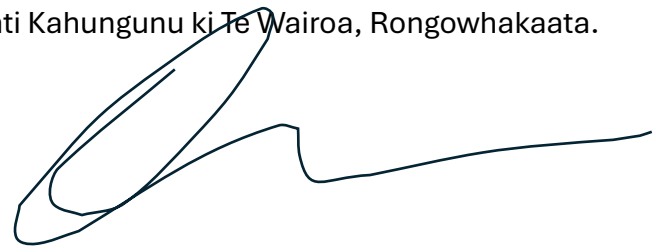
Bowen Peak Ltd through their Rangatira Guy Hingston have proposed two Predator-free Sanctuaries, ensuring a significant footprint for the birds and plants protected within its barriers.

As was the way when the original native vegetation was abundant, Te Kākahu o Hakitekura will support and enhance the concept of **Te mana o te wai,** ensuring the life-supporting capacity of fresh water. Native vegetation filters run off that enters Lake Whakatipu wai-maori. Native vegetation reduces land loss because the root systems are connected (**ngahere)** a system which supports and enhances Te Taumata o Hakitekura.

This recloaking project, specifically the wilding pine eradication along with its ecological restoration plan, meets many Te Ao Māori (Māori worldview) principles and long-term goals and outcomes.

I am not mandated to speak on behalf of Ka Rūnaka or Ngāi Tahu, and therefore I offer my own view as an individual who descends from Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe and Waitaha and who has whakapapa into this area, recently through Rakatira Te Pahi, Te Rakitauneke and Tu Te Makohu.

Nga mihi

Darren Rewi

Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa, Rongowhakaata.