

Submission to Te Uru Taumata

Submitter: Mereana Wilson – He Uri o Ngahina Pa, Ngati Tawhaki, Ngati Rongo, Ngati Hamoa Hapū, Tuhoe Iwi.

Te Kawa o te Urewera.

He mihi nui, mihi atu kia koutou katoa, nga kaimahi o Te Urewera,

Ko tenei toku whakaaro me te tuhinga o “Te Kawa o Te Urewera’.
He mihi, he mihi, he mihi.

Kia ora Koutou,

Ko Maungapohatu, Huiarau, Tairahia nga maunga
Ko Ohinemataroa, Whakatane te awa
Ko Mātātua te waka
Ko Toroa te tangata
Ko Tuhoe te iwi
Ko Ngati Tawhaki te hapu
Ko Ngahina te marae

Anei ko ahau, Ko Mereana tōku ingoa.

As a descendant of Te Urewera and my whanau connections to my primary hapu Ngati Tawhaki, Ngahina marae, Tuhoe iwi and Te Urewera as my homeland, an inheritance I proudly state as my Maori heritage for both myself, my whanau, whanau whanui, marae, hapu, tamariki and hopefully my mokopuna both now and going into the future.

I celebrate this day. We now have a working draft document that reflects the role Tuhoe have as a Treaty Partner and the fundamental role of the protection, governance, management and operations of Te Urewera. This has been a long time coming and it's great to see Tuhoe are recognised as a Treaty Partner to its most prized taonga Te Urewera.

My review of Te Kawa o Te Urewera has enabled me to put down my initial thoughts and submit them so that the Te Urewera Trust Board read and consider the matters I recognised and some of the concerns/questions and proposed suggestions/solutions to these matters. There are real matters of concern I raise and want documented and a response to as I have a responsibility to feedback to my hapu and ensure Ngati Tawhaki maintains our mana whenua over our hapu and whanau lands while supporting an increased role and responsibility in the management of our most prized taonga Te Urewera.

I have made my comments so that the Te Urewera Trust Board Trust, can hear the voice of just one Tuhoe descendant that is passionate about protecting, restoring, accessing and connecting with my homelands and ensuring my children and mokopuna get that same privileges I have been fortunate to have as an uri of Te Urewera.

My General Comments

The ‘Te Kawa o Te Urewera’ document aims to capture the philosophy and method(s) of the Tuhoe iwi relationship with our ngahere Te Urewera.

Foreword. I don't agree with the statement Te Urewera is a Marae. Te Urewera is **not** a Marae, it is a **ngahere**, Ko te Urewera te ao o Tanemahuta.

Te Urewera is the papakainga mo Nga Tamariki o te Kohu. Te Urewera is our ngahere and we have a collective responsibility as both guaridans to protect, rule and effectively manage Te Urewera for us and our mokopuna i mua.

What needs to be clear in this document is the specific role, functions and authority the Crown and Iwi as Treaty Partners have for Te Urewera and the role of Crown agencies and Tuhoe hapu have in the active governance and management and protection of Te Urewera as a whole and the sub-areas of Te Urewera as components of whole.

While a principles-based approach to responsibility of Te Urewera is stated in Te Kawa o te Urewera, there is a very real need to clarify who has roles, functions, decisions and management tasks for the protection, restoration, development and restrinction of a range of activities for and within Te Urewera.

These functions for needs to be recognised, explored and specified in order to respect our ngahere and the way we guard, protect, rule and effectively manage our taonga for this and future generations.

This document needs to commence this process by setting out a driection to start to 'recognise, set-out and specify the various roles and tasks needed to protect, restore, restrict and develop the health of Te Urewera.

This document also needs to recognise the role(s) of individual and the hapu collective within Tuhoe iwi have within their papakainga rohe of, within and surrounding Te Urewera.

Clarifying the levels of responsibility and the functions within Tuhoe Iwi and at each levels needs to be set-out in this document (or at least recognise that this work needs to occur) so that the Te Urewera Trust Board does not undermine the rights and interests of Tuhoe hapu as their functions as set out under the Treaty and in New Zealand law. Visual Diagrams are required as it is not clear currently.

Wording to specify areas of authority as hapu members of Tuhoe iwi is needed in order to manage the different aspects of the health of Te Urewera. This is not clear as set out in page 29.

Points of Note in Te Kawa o Te Urewera	My Response	Questions raised as as a result of review of statements
Te Kawa is not intended to operate in the same way as a usual management plan which focuses on rules. Rather, Te Kawa records principles as law, and traditions and beliefs as the sense of a better future. (page 6)	While principles, traditions and beliefs are great social things, you must assume that people will hold the same values that then mean they will abide by these principles, traditions and customs. We know this isn't hold true. This document must stipulate what is required, what is optional and what is restricted, or you will never ensure Tikanga Maori, in particular Tikanga Tuhoe me nga kawa o nga hapū are protected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will Te Kawa o Te Urewera actually work in practice? • What role does TUT see Tuhoe Hapū having in the delivery of Te Kawa o te Urewera? • How will TUT ensure Tuhoe hapū are effectively involved and actively participate in the implementation of Te Kawa o te Urewera? • What resources will be allocated at a hapū level in order for each hapū to effectively manage their functions for the protection, use, restoration and restriction activities for and within Te Urewera?
The investment and contribution by the Department of Conservation continues to be welcomed and acknowledged. (page 6)	This document only names one Government Dept. As the Crown is a co-partner as set out in Te Urewera Act, why is this document not naming other central and regional government agencies as they all have a role to protect Te Urewera for all New Zealanders (not just Tuhoe NZers), both now and into the future?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why isn't Tourism NZ, MBIE, MfE, TPK, MPI, NZ Trade named in this document? • What other central/regional government agencies need to be named in this document, especially those with a vested interest (ie: BOP Regional Council and several district councils, as well as Territorial Land Authorities) in the protection,

		<p>restoration and access to Te Urewera.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What role will they (other stakeholders), play in supporting Te Urewera?
tanata whenua and manuhiri (page 6)	To whom are you referring to when you use these terms?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is tanata whenua considered hapū and /or marae? If so, this needs to be stated in a glossary • Is tanata whenua considered Nga Tamariki o te kohu as a collective of hapū and marae? If so, this needs to be stated in a glossary • Who are manuhiri? Is this people not belonging to Te Urewera? Does this also include the Crown and it's agencies? This terms needs specifying?
The Te Urewera Board has a duty to act on behalf of, and in the name of Te Urewera, and the Board maintains this role with full capacity and all the powers necessary to achieve its purposes and perform its functions as the voice of the living personality of Te Urewera. (page 6).	Te Urewera Board has the duty to act on behalf of and in the name of Te Urewera. This document also states that the board maintains this role will 'full capacity'. Does this mean the board and board members will be the ones eradicating pests such as blackberry and possums from Te Urewera?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What role does the board have in listening to matters raised by tangata whenua as well as local community matters pertaining to Te Urewera? • What tasks to protect, restore, manage and restrict will be done by the board and which tasks will be delegated to other(s) ie: regional and district councils, hapū, marae, communities? • What powers and resources will be provided and distributed to the various treaty partners groups for the active co-governance and co-management for the operations of Te Urewera?
These whanau and hapū exercise limited authority in these tribal areas, understand bound by the rule that no one hapū is independent of another.	I disagree with this statement. This is incorrect. Hapū have full authority within their papakainga rohe. This includes rights as property owners, landowners, hapu authorities and hapu trusts. These rights and authorities are not diminished as a result of this document. NZ Case law provide examples where this very matters has demonstrated that hapu as tangata whenua are the rightful owners that have authority over their lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This document needs to delete the following words 'limited' for this statement • This document needs to delete the following words 'bound by the rule' for this statement. • Insert understand instead of bound by the rule
Here, Tuhoe decision making is conducted in a as an open process in a regular Tuhoe Iwi led decision making forum as an open process, so each Tuhoe hapū are local decision makers. Tuhoe iwi will lead the hapū representative forum to ensure ALL Tuhoe hapū make a choice on the best decisions for Te Urewera and their hapū's aspirations for their papakainga rohe in and on behalf of Te Urewera as a iwi taonga. led by hapū and and unified as Tuhoe Tribal valley opinion, the current Tribal valleys include : (page 29).	I disagree with this statement. This is incorrect. Tuhoe iwi decision making needs to be done through a open and transparent decision-making process where FULL Tuhoe hapū representation occurs in the decision making process for Te Urewera. The Te Urewera Trust Board MUST consider the matters and decisions that Tuhoe Iwi and ALL representative Tuhoe Hapu deem important for Te Urewera. Hapu have full authority within their papakainga rohe. In order for every Tuhoe hapu to have a equal ability to make a decision on behalf of their hapu, ALL hapu need to have a seat to participate by being able to decide whether to to support, deny and /or withhold their decision making ability for matters pertaining to Te Urewera.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This document needs to delete the following words led by hapū and and unified as Tuhoe Tribal valley opinion, the current Tribal valleys include in this statement • This document needs to incorporate the following words. • Here, Tuhoe decision making is conducted in a as an open process in a regular Tuhoe Iwi led decision making forum as an open process, so each Tuhoe hapū are local decision makers. Tuhoe iwi will lead the hapū representative forum to ensure ALL Tuhoe hapū make a choice on the best decisions for Te Urewera and their hapū's aspirations for their papakainga rohe in and on behalf of Te Urewera as a iwi taonga.
Links to page 11 (a) <i>strengthen and maintain the</i>	Hapu has legal rights as property owners, landowners, hapu authorities and hapu trusts	

<p><i>connection between Tuhoe and Te Urewera.</i></p>	<p>to make decisions on the best outcomes for thier lands and thier people. This includes lands in and surrounding Te Urewera. The Te Urewera Trust Board MUST consider Tuhoe lwi concerns as well as Tuhoe hapu concerns and matters. These rights and authorities are not diminisehed as a result of this document. NZ law and the Te Urewera Act provide the legilsation to give effect to this. (see page 11).</p> <p><i>(a) strengthen and maintain the connection between Tuhoe and Te Urewera.</i></p>	
--	---	--

I look forward to your response to my concerns and the ways Te Uru Taumatua as the Tuhoe Iwi authority propose in consider and incorproate my concerns and proposed solutions to improving the draft Te Kawa o te Urewera document.

He mihi atu kia koe.

Na Mereana Wilson