
**KEI MUA I TE AROARO O TE RŌPŪ WHAKAMANA
I TE TIRITI O WAITANGI
BEFORE THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL**

WAI 2200

IN THE MATTER OF **the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975**

AND

IN THE MATTER OF **The Porirua ki Manawatū District Inquiry
(Wai 2200)**

**BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF INSPECTOR TRACEY THOMPSON
ON BEHALF OF NEW ZEALAND POLICE**

Dated: 01 July 2019

RECEIVED

Waitangi Tribunal

8 July 2019

Ministry of Justice
WELLINGTON

CROWN LAW

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I, Tracey Thompson, New Zealand Police Inspector stationed at Porirua, state:

1. My full name is Tracey Thompson. I am of Te Aitanga a Hauiti and Ngāti Whakaue descent.
2. I am the Area Commander for the Kapiti-Mana police district. I am stationed at the Porirua Police Station. I have been the Area Commander for the Kapiti-Mana area for the past two years and, for the two years prior to that, I was the Māori Responsiveness Manager for Wellington District Police. I have been a police officer since 1995.
3. Throughout this period, and particularly since I have been the Area Commander, I have met with Andre Baker, the Chair of the Whakarongotai Charitable Trust, as well as with members of the Whakarongotai Marae Committee, on occasions to korero. I feel I have a mutually respectful relationship with all of these kuia and kaumatua.
4. Prior to being advised by counsel for the Crown of the evidence given during this Inquiry about the issue of difficulties for tangata whenua in engaging with the Police over traffic control required for tangihanga, I was unaware of this being an issue. It had not been raised with me despite the hui I have held with iwi members.
5. I do note that it is unclear to me as to when it was that Police have “not been on hand to control the traffic like they used to”, nor when the tangi was when police apparently suggested the use of the pedestrian crossing.¹
6. Since this issue has been brought to my attention I have spoken with Mr Te Roera Puna, Pouwhakataki for Kapiti-Mana. Mr Puna has advised me that Mr Rawhiti Higgott did mention to him concerns about road crossing for tangihanga in August 2018. Closing the road is not a matter within Police control and so Mr Puna contacted the Kapiti Coast District Council about the issue and was advised a traffic management plan is not required to close the road for a short time to allow a funeral procession to cross the road. Subsequent inquiries with Kapiti Coast District Council have revealed that as the said road is under the New Zealand Transport Authority control until July

¹ Evidence of Rawhiti Higgott: Wai 2200, #F3 at [266].

2020, a traffic management plan is required for any future temporary road closures. Mr Puna advises me that he passed this information on to the Marae chairperson Mrs Lois McNaught.

7. Since having this matter brought to my attention, I have spoken with Andre Baker and we are committed to meeting to discuss Te Ātiawa ki Kapiti's concerns. It was agreed that this meeting will occur following the most recent Treaty Settlement hearings.
8. On the 5th of June 2019 I met with the Whakarongotai Marae Committee at Whakarongotai Marae. The issue of closing the road was not on the agenda, however I did manage to speak with Mrs Ani Parata before the meeting commenced. It was reconfirmed by Mrs Parata that the Marae Committee are happy with the current arrangement in that they will call Police if our presence is required.
9. Arrangements are now being made for a hui to be held to discuss formalising an agreement as to how the Police and iwi can work cooperatively together, on this and other matters of importance to the parties. There is potential for agreements reached to be formally recorded in a Memorandum of Understanding.



Inspector Tracey (middle name?) Thompson
New Zealand Police

1 July 2019

