

Interventions to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Information for the Committee's 63rd Session, March 2018 – Review of New Zealand

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 8 February 2018, community organization He Korowai Trust (in the Far North of the North Island, Aotearoa, New Zealand), hosted a workshop attended by 21 people including representatives of community organisations, social services providers and individuals. We also acknowledge and are very grateful to the New Zealand Human Rights Commission who facilitated and recorded the discussion, and provided the first draft of this intervention.
- 1.2 This intervention sets out some of the key human rights issues raised in that workshop from our collective perspectives as environmental and social justice advocates active in our local Far North community of Kaitaia and surrounding districts.²
- 1.3 The basic human rights issues we wish to highlight which have emerged over the reporting period relate to:
 - a. Climate crisis.
 - b. The revised Comprehensive Progressive Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (**CP-TPPA**, also known as TPP-11).
 - c. Natural wealth and resources, particularly Water (and as concerns other rights such as the right to physical health, and democratic resource management decision-making).
 - d. Structural barriers at State Government and local Government level that suppress democracy, and/or ignore, undermine or prevent us moving forward with community-led solutions.
 - e. The right to social security and an adequate standard of living.
 - f. Lack of recognition of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (**Te Tiriti**), tino rangatiratanga (self-determination) and of Māori values and world views.

- g. Significant disparities and daily struggles for basic human rights faced by our – predominantly Māori – communities, including in relation to: housing, food, health care and adequate income (whether in employment or not).
- h. Issues affecting our children and youth, including: a lack of opportunities for them; access to education, including civics education; financial support for young people while studying; dealing with the state care system.

2. Climate crisis

- 2.1 It was revealed in September 2017 that the National Government suppressed a critical 284 page climate change report which it had had in its possession since April of that year.³ The report, titled “Coastal Hazards and Climate Change: Guidance For Local Government”, warned of numerous and increasingly destructive climate change threats affecting over 130,000 coastal-2-3 New Zealanders. The cost of these threats is estimated at \$19b. Even more disturbing is the disconnect between this cost and economic development plans at the regional level. For example, New Zealand’s biggest city, Auckland, only began effectively mentioning the term “climate change” in their Regional Growth Strategy last year.⁴
- 2.2 The National Government continued to subsidize and support fossil fuel production despite Paris Agreement emissions reduction targets (including latest COP commitments).
- 2.3 The Government was also challenged in the High Court for failure to (a) ensure alignment of its 2050 emissions target with updated climate science, and (b) to set an effective Paris target needed to keep global warming below 2°C.⁵ On 2 November,⁶ the court agreed that the Government had acted unlawfully in failing to fulfil its duty to review New Zealand’s 2050 target with each new IPCC report, commenting that:
- “The Courts have recognised the significance of the issue for the planet and its inhabitants and that those in the Court’s jurisdiction are necessarily among all who are affected by inadequate efforts to respond to climate change.”*
- 2.4 The court noted that the case had been overtaken by the election of a new Coalition Government which had committed to improved climate change “action”, and for this reason declined to order relief. Such action includes public consultation to begin in May 2018 on a Zero Carbon Bill,⁷ including the establishment of a Climate Change Commission.
- 2.5 A major aim of the new Government is to establish by the end of the parliamentary term “a framework for a net zero emissions economy by 2050”.⁸ It will be important to ensure effective Māori representation on that Commission, as well as sufficient resourcing of the Commission’s work. However, believing Government actions (both local and central) are insufficient, the National Iwi Chairs Forum on 1 February 2018 agreed to organize an inaugural Māori Leaders Climate Change Summit for 24-25 March 2018 (augmented with regional climate dialogues around the country

for our Māori communities who, we believe, will be most impacted on by climate crisis).

3. **CP-TPPA**

- 3.1 **Experts predict that the CP-TPPA will have massive and profoundly destructive implications on whānau and communities:** it opens the door for large overseas companies to have a chilling effect on and dictate both central and local government actions; and it undermines those government's responsibilities to protect our environment and uphold citizen's rights:⁹

“The Labour Party, despite saying they'd refuse to support ratification of the TPPA and demanding independent economic and health analyses, and promising a new inclusive approach to trade and investment agreements are planning to sign the TPPA-11 on 8 March 2018.

The text for TPPA-11 is the same as the original TPPA, with a small number of provisions suspended until the United States rejoins. The negotiations are still secret. The threats to our regulatory sovereignty remain the same.”

- 3.2 **The CP-TPPA¹⁰ will be signed on 8 March 2018, International Women's Day.¹¹** We find this particularly and insidiously offensive, as those in most vulnerable socio-economic positions (disproportionately including women and children) will be the first to feel its damaging effects. That the architects of this instrument are at best ignorant of the significance of the date, or at worst deliberately and pathologically chose this date to green-wash and mask the destructive force of this deal, shows the inhumanity of our precarious situation.

- 3.3 As at 12 February 2018, civil society protests against the CP-TPPA were being organized around the country for 4 March, and in New Zealand's capital of Wellington on signing day 8 March.¹²

- 3.4 ***Recommendation: That the Government ceases progressing (including signing of) the CP-TPPA unless and until it complies with the following “10 bottom lines for New Zealand's trade policy”¹³:***

a. **An end to secrecy:** Negotiations must take place under conditions of openness, including the regular release of draft negotiation texts to the public.

b. **Democratic oversight:** Negotiation mandates must be voted on by Parliament — with the aid of public submissions — before the start of future trade and investment negotiations.

Future trade and investment agreements must also be presented to Parliament for approval before the conclusion of negotiations, and following independent economic, health, human rights and environmental impact assessments.

c. **Unrestricted right to protect the public interest and the environment:** The New Zealand government must be free to protect

and promote the wellbeing of its people and the natural environment in any way it sees fit.

To achieve this, trade and investment agreements must contain strong and enforceable carve-outs to ensure that social and environmental regulation is not undermined.

- d. **Regulation of overseas investment:** The New Zealand government must be free to set its own rules on overseas investment, and to change these rules in accordance with national priorities.
- e. **Protection of international law:** Trade and investment agreements must not undermine states' obligations in other international agreements, including those protecting human rights, labour standards and the environment. These obligations are to take precedence in the event of any inconsistency with future trade and investment agreements.
- f. **No Investor-State Dispute Settlement:** Overseas investors must not have access to rights, remedies and dispute mechanisms other than those available to local investors.
- g. **Honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi:** Any future trade and investment agreements must contain a strong and comprehensive carve-out to protect the rights of Māori, consistent with te Tiriti o Waitangi and other recognised sources.
- h. **Exclude local government:** Elected local government bodies must be free to make, and be accountable for, their own decisions without being subject to the constraints of international trade and investment agreements.
- i. **Retain the role of the State:** Trade and investment agreements must not undermine, directly or indirectly, the authority of the State to regulate the economy, hold assets, provide services to the public and enter into commercial arrangements.
- j. **Promote the free flow of knowledge and information:** Trade and investment agreements must not confer new monopoly rights over the use and distribution of knowledge, or over the digital domain.

4. Water and Democratic Decision-making

- 4.1 There are now several independent crowd-sourced water protection campaigns¹⁴ occurring all around the nation, including the recent creation of numerous NGOs¹⁵ and other citizen-based platforms¹⁶ dedicated to water defence. More threats to the healthy state of our water¹⁷ and our human right to access it (including a growing number of water shortages,¹⁸ and deaths which have already been linked to water problems¹⁹) are also emerging.²⁰
- 4.2 This has led numerous experts to declare that New Zealand is in a state of water crisis²¹ with major environmental, health²² and economic implications²³ echoing the trends around the globe.²⁴

- 4.3 As NGOs call for urgent enhancement of “the coherence between water, food and energy policies,”²⁵ both central and local Government have come under scrutiny for their parlous mis-management of this most precious resource,²⁶ in particular the violation of obligations to obtain Māori free, prior and informed consent (or even meet basic Māori consultation²⁷ and participation²⁸ standards), despite there having recently been implemented additional legislative mechanisms for enhanced Māori engagement.²⁹ Some have gone as far as to allege corruption, with local Governments turning a blind eye to corporate misconduct, its passive-aggressive and contemptuous treatment of citizens’ concerns, and suppression of affected citizens’ democratic right to have their voices heard in relation to water allocation decision-making³⁰ (in some cases, tens of thousands of citizens are opposing consent applications and decisions).³¹
- 4.4 Moreover, concerns are rising that the CP-TPP will only extend the corporations’ water privatisation and financialization reach into New Zealand, thereby exponentially exacerbating the perilous nature of Aotearoa’s water crises.
- 4.5 ***Recommendation: That the government take urgent steps to ensure and enable meaningful participation by all affected Māori and citizens in water allocation decision-making, including the specific actions attached (see Appendix One).***

5. Recognition of Te Tiriti o Waitangi

- 5.1 Te Tiriti guaranteed tino rangatiratanga and true partnership, yet we are far from being true partners. The population of our region is 63% Māori, and many of us have been raised within the strong values, tikanga (laws) and kōrero (stories, histories) of our kuia and kaumātua (elders). Those elders were passionate people who made things happen. Our organisations continue to offer services to the community within the values of manaaki, tautoko and awhi (caring for and supporting people).
- 5.2 Despite these strong foundations in our culture, we see our people being ignored and undermined by prejudice and discrimination, and by failure to put Te Tiriti into action. We understand our communities and see that our people have the answers. Yet when Māori come up with solutions, all too often progress is stalled or stopped altogether by barriers put up by the system, and there is a ‘top down’ rather than ‘bottom up’ approach.
- 5.3 Māori are excluded from economic decision-making, to the detriment of the whole community. One example is the decision to relocate the main state highway away from its current route – through small, predominantly Māori communities – to run through wealthier coastal towns.
- 5.4 Local assets are being stripped out, with no benefits going to the community. An example of this is aquaculture; a large portion of New Zealand’s \$2.5bn mussel industry is originally sourced and grown from spat taken from 90 Mile Beach in Northland. Furthermore, even when lands are returned to Māori

through Te Tiriti claims process, often the land is divided into parcels too small to be economically viable.

5.5 Likewise, the amount of financial redress received through Treaty settlements is generally only 1-2% of the value of the lands and resources lost. Despite this tiny amount, of reparation, there seems to be an expectation that once Iwi have settled they will take over many of the responsibilities of government for providing basic services such as health, education and building community resilience.

5.6 ***Recommendation: That government uphold its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, including by:***

(a) Developing meaningful partnerships with Māori at all levels

(b) Ensuring Māori participation in decision-making, including economic decisions affecting Māori communities, lands and natural resources

(c) Enabling tino rangatiratanga and supporting Māori led solutions

(d) Providing fair and adequate redress for Treaty claims

(e) Ensuring that even after Iwi have settled Treaty claims and received financial redress, their people still have equal access to quality health and social services provided by the state.

6. **Access to basic rights**³²

6.1 Kaitiāia is a small town in the far north of New Zealand, with a population of just over 5,000. Most of the participants in this workshop work in organisations delivering services and assistance to this community. We see the daily struggles that whānau face to access their basic human rights.

6.2 The need for housing is a priority in our community. Among our organisations we offer accommodation, emergency housing, affordable home ownership programmes as well as any other emotional and practical support we can. We still see a huge need for emergency housing and too many people left homeless.

6.3 In our community up to 85% of people receive social security benefits. The average income is around \$25,000, which is below what is generally regarded as the poverty line. We regularly see people who are employed – often in good jobs – and still can't make ends meet.

6.4 The benefit system itself creates barriers and injustices, with even prominent politicians admitting they have experienced the system's oppressiveness and violence.³³ For example, where families receive financial assistance by way of Family Tax Credits – around \$150/week, meant to support the children – this money is counted as income, with resulting detriment to the family's social security benefit. This is wrong. The 'best interests of the child' require that this money should be preserved for the benefit of the children, not treated as additional income and used to limit the family's entitlements. The benefit

system is so cruel and inhumane that in at least one documented case it drove a woman to suicide.³⁴ This has led to increasing mobilization behind the call for the implementation of a Universal Basic Income³⁵ in Aotearoa – a mechanism that has even greater appeal with the inevitable prospect of more humans being made jobless through the rise of A.I. and other automation technologies.

- 6.5 Our communities are treated unfairly compared with other regions. For example, the level of the Accommodation Supplement is far lower in Kaitiaki than in Auckland. Yet the housing challenges in our community are huge and the impact can be seen in the high level of homelessness.
- 6.6 Many of our local services have been down-sized and disregarded, with the result that our health and social services are overloaded. **We have a rescue helicopter that is only able to operate 93 days of the year.** The local police station closes at 5pm, without even a shelter from the rain for people needing to speak to police via the station phone to Whangarei (around 2 hours away).
- 6.7 In some cases, government programmes and funding initiatives create, rather than alleviate obstacles. Onerous administration and reporting requirements that are attached to funding take up huge amounts of time. This is another example of being subjected to a ‘top down’ approach rather than being empowered to deliver local solutions.
- 6.8 Sometimes the structural barriers are so great that its simpler to forgo those requirements and for community organisations just to go ahead and do it themselves. For example, in one local area residents requested a park. After no action from the council, a community organisation has instead found land for the park and is planning to build it themselves. In another instance, the same organisation fixed a broken footpath after waiting for the council to take action.
- 6.9 Other organisations that are pushing ahead under their own initiative include those promoting the right to self-determination and development through sport. The group is seeking to establish its own rugby league competition and governing body in the far north, as a means of promoting development, health and addressing issues such as violence and drug use.
- 6.10 Dealing with government agencies can also entail obstacles. The entrance to the local Work & Income office is flanked by five security guards. One workshop participant recounted her frustrations during a recent phone call with an agency; being unable to get information and feeling talked down to.
- 6.11 ***Recommendation: That the government:***
 - (a) ***Adequately invest in small communities to ensure that people in all parts of New Zealand have equal access to basic rights such as housing, health and an adequate standard of living.***

(b) Uphold the principle of the 'best interests of the child' by ensuring that Family Tax Credits are not included as part of income assessments for social security benefits.

(c) Remove overly-burdensome administration and reporting requirements attached to funding.

(d) Take action to ensure that local and central agencies are accessible and responsive to the needs of communities, and that people using their services are treated with dignity and respect.

7. Children and young people

7.1 Kaitia has a young population. We need to invest in these young people as our future leaders, as well as the future working population that will be driving our economy and supporting our whānau. A lot rests on their shoulders and yet support and opportunities for rangatahi (young people) are lacking.

7.2 Rangatahi in all areas of the country should be able to access the same range and quality of opportunities and support. Access to high quality education and well trained teachers should not be dependent on where you live. Rangatahi need to be involved and able to participate and have their say. They should also be able to stretch themselves and have access to experiences outside of the 'bubble' of small town life.

7.3 The level of support given to young people pursuing qualifications also needs to be adequate and equitable. For example, a 16 year old who is not at school but who is studying for a qualification, receives less study allowance than someone aged 18.

7.4 Rangatahi need to know their rights in order to claim them and be able to defend them. Civics education needs to be a core part of the curriculum and part of every child's education.

7.5 There also needs to be a shift in the way our society views and treats young people. One workshop participant raised an example where a young person had been bullied by a police officer, knocked to the ground and pepper sprayed – and this was seen as acceptable and normalised.

7.6 Another participant recounted her experiences with the state care system: her ongoing struggle to be listened to and to get adequate support for her five grandchildren in care. Issues she seeks to address include: the children say the carer has assaulted them; they repeatedly abscond from care, walking long distances to try to return to her. The high work load placed on social workers is one factor that results in children not receiving the level of professional care and attention that they should.

7.7 **Recommendation: That the government:**

(a) Provide the necessary resources, training and support to ensure that children in small towns and remote areas have access to high

quality education, and to a wide range of opportunities for their development.

(b) Ensure that study allowances for young people working towards qualifications are fair and equitable, regardless of their age.

(c) Make civics and human rights education a core part of every child's education.

(d) Take urgent steps to ensure that children and young people in care are safe and that any allegations of violence are immediately addressed.

Sincerely,

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Appendix One: Recommendations for Government action on water

WE CALL ON ALL OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC SERVANTS, TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION IN RELATION TO NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS' WATER CONCERNS:

1. ***Recognize and affirm:***
 - a. The **obligation** of all responsible State decision-makers to advocate and **ensure the protection of:**
 - i. Our natural environment;
 - ii. Our human right to clean water; and
 - iii. Tangata whenua rights; and
 - b. That this obligation is:
 - i. Founded in **domestic and International law;**
 - ii. Consistent with:
 1. Community Development plans (where they are in place) created in cooperation with the local councils³⁶; and
 2. The ["Local Government Leaders' Water Declaration"](#) (9 October 2017); and
 - iii. Of paramount importance in this Era of extreme **Climate Crisis** uncertainty and vulnerability for humanity;
2. ***Actively fulfil*** the obligation in 1. above as demanded by (among other considerations) your **sworn Oaths of Office**, i.e.:
 - a. For [local government officials](#), "I, [full name of mayor, councillor or board member], declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgment, execute and perform, in the best interests of [name of region, district, city, local or community board], the powers, authorities, and duties vested in or imposed upon me as a member of the [name of local authority] by virtue of the LGA 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), or any other Act", including the obligation to honour Aotearoa's founding instrument, te Tiriti o Waitangi; and
 - b. For [Members of Parliament](#), "I, ..., solemnly, sincerely, and truly declare and affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Her heirs and successors, according to law", noting that Parliament is bound to honour te Tiriti o Waitangi both:
 - i. Directly, as Aotearoa's founding instrument; and
 - ii. Indirectly, via members' oaths of allegiance to the Queen who herself is bound to honour the Crown guarantees under te Tiriti o Waitangi;

FURTHER, WE CALL ON YOU ALL to recognize on principle that:

3. All persons significantly affected by resource management decisions - particularly tangata whenua, and especially regarding the essentials of Life such as water - have the **human and democratic right to be meaningfully involved in that decision-making;**
4. **Serious allegations of misconduct** (including, but not limited to illegality) of resource consent applicants relating to their application ought to be resolved prior to the responsible authority determining their consent application. Such resolution should include full accountability for any and all proven misconduct, including:
 - a. Strict monitoring and reporting conditions imposed on the consent, if subsequently granted, that reflect the nature and degree of the misconduct and lack of integrity of the applicant to ensure effective protection of:
 - i. Our natural environment;
 - ii. Our human right to clean water; and
 - iii. Tangata whenua rights; or
 - b. In extreme cases of misconduct, that the application be declined outright; and certainly
 - c. That local authorities should not reward applicants for their bad behaviour by issuing them **temporary water permits**³⁷;

5. Given the imperatives in 1.a.i-iii above related to **water security**:
 - a. Consent holders should only be permitted to use aquifer water granted to them for specific purposes directly related to their core business pertaining to the application (i.e. consents should clearly prohibit the consent holder from profiting from the **on-selling to third parties of any aquifer water** granted to them); and
 - b. Councils should engage meaningfully with affected tangata whenua (including but not limited to iwi authorities) regarding the appointment of **hearings Commissioners** with tikanga Māori (Māori values, culture and traditions) expertise; and
6. Extrapolating *inaccurate and/or estimated* monitoring data merely in relation to few bores to then generate an **abstract computer model** upon which to justify a resource consent application affecting an entire aquifer system is bad practice, and violates Resource Management Act 1991 and Local Government Act 2002 standards of responsible and competent resource management;

AND, to the extent and degree that Council decision-making processes regarding resource consent applications will only partially do so, **WE ALSO CALL ON YOU ALL** to give effect to (implement, and/or make the situation compliant with) the abovementioned principles.

¹ <http://hkt.org.nz/home/>.

² For a socio-economic profile of our district, see <https://www.fndc.govt.nz/about-the-district/economic-development/FNDC-Social-and-Economic-Profile-August-2016.pdf>.

³ “New coastal hazards report reveals inconvenient truths” (3 September 2017), at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA1709/S00023/new-coastal-hazards-report-reveals-inconvenient-truths.htm>.

⁴ See “Auckland Council unveils plan to combat climate change” (24 August 2017) at <https://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/95915800/auckland-council-unveils-plan-to-combat-climate-change>. This, despite New Zealand participating in the 1992 Rio Earth Summit which adopted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and subsequent UNFCCC processes: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/international-forums-and-agreements/united-nations-framework-convention-climate>. Local Government is also bound by the Resource Management Act 1991. Section 7(i) has been in existence since March 2004 (inserted by [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Resource Management (Energy and Climate Change) Amendment Act 2004 (2004 No 2)). Section 7(i) states, “Other matters - In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall have particular regard to— [...] the effects of climate change” (see <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1991/0069/latest/DLM231910.html>).

⁵ “I took the climate change minister to court and won – kind of. Now I’m looking at you, James Shaw” (4 November 2017), at <https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/04-11-2017/i-took-the-climate-change-minister-to-court-and-won-kind-of-now-im-looking-at-you-james-shaw/>.

⁶ Judgement of Mallon J, 2 November 2017, available at <https://www.courtsfnz.govt.nz/cases/thomson-v-the-minister-for-climate-change-issues/@images/fileDecision?r=445.450672471>.

⁷ The Bill to be introduced into parliament by October 2018.

⁸ “Prime Minister announces formulation of Zero Carbon Act, climate change commission” (18 December 2017), at http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11961862.

⁹ <https://itsourfuture.org.nz/tppa-1/>.

¹⁰ <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1802/S00091/tpp-11cptpp-lets-not-do-this.htm>.

¹¹ <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>.

¹² See video of public meeting held in Auckland on 12 February with presentations by Prof. Jane Kelsey and other experts, at <https://vimeo.com/255506476>.

¹³ <https://itsourfuture.org.nz/ten-demands/>.

¹⁴ For example, see campaigns in the far north of the north island, https://our.actionstation.org.nz/petitions/protect-citizens-water-rights-in-te-hiku?just_launched=true; Poroti near Whangarei, <https://our.actionstation.org.nz/petitions/save-poroti-springs>; Murupara in the Bay of Plenty, <https://our.actionstation.org.nz/petitions/stop-the-waterbottling-plant-planned-for-murupara>; Christchurch, <https://www.change.org/p/environment-canterbury-ecan-stop-foreign-water-bottling-business-obtaining-4->

[32-million-litres-of-water-per-day](https://www.toko.org.nz/petitions/save-te-waikoropupu-springs-tasman-district-council); Waikoropupu in the Tasman District, <https://www.toko.org.nz/petitions/save-te-waikoropupu-springs-tasman-district-council>.

¹⁵ For example, see Aotearoa Water Action Incorporated, http://www.societies.govt.nz/pls/web/DBSIFRAME.l Init?p_access_no=D1D6721A00504437FD9EB888D1CA6FC4&p_receipt_number=15009337&p_sequence_number=1&p_reference_number=2694351&p_called_from=ALLTAB.

¹⁶ E.g. We are Water, at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1105337399603221/>.

¹⁷ See <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/peopleandpower/2017/08/polluted-paradise-170831042123144.html>.

¹⁸ For example, see <https://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/local-news/western-leader/99550944/water-shortages-could-be-a-sign-of-things-to-come>.

¹⁹ See “Report links fourth death to Havelock North water crisis”, http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11955292.

²⁰ The New Zealand defence forces are also complicit in polluting our waterways: e.g. ref the situation in Manawatu, in the Marlborough district, at <https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/348951/toxic-water-it-s-the-uncertainty-that-s-the-killer>.

²¹ See Dr Mike Joy, lecturer at Massey University, “Our Fresh Water Crisis”, at <https://millionmetres.org.nz/why-streams/>.

²² See “Editorial: Water woes are a clear health crisis”, at <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/opinion/99628685/editorial-water-woes-are-a-clear-health-crisis>; also with 60 of Auckland city’s 84 beaches being unswimmable – see “Auckland swimmers unaware of contamination on beaches” at <https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/350225/auckland-swimmers-unaware-of-contamination-on-beaches>.

²³ See <https://www.stuff.co.nz/southland-times/opinion/101287773/we-have-resilience-lessons-to-learn>.

²⁴ See “The lessons New Zealand could learn from the Cape Town water crisis”, <http://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2018/01/the-lessons-new-zealand-could-learn-from-the-cape-town-water-crisis.html>.

²⁵ <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1801/S00177/trout-anglers-back-pms-public-water-ownership.htm>.

²⁶ See “Letters: Guessing around groundwater bores isn’t good enough”, at http://www.nzherald.co.nz/northland-age/opinion/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503399&objectid=11980209.

²⁷ See email to Northland Regional Council raising concerns about the lack of Māori consultation about a water resource consent application, at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1105337399603221/permalink/1107177082752586/>, and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1105337399603221/permalink/1107303406073287/>.

²⁸ See email to Northland Regional Council raising concerns about the lack of Māori consultation regarding Councils obligation to appoint hearing commissioners with expertise in tikanga Māori (Māori values, customs and traditions), at https://www.facebook.com/groups/1105337399603221/permalink/1145715332232094/?comment_id=1145717512231876&comment_tracking=%7B%22tn%22%3A%22R4%22%7D.

²⁹ See information on the Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe arrangements introduced in April 2017, at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA1704/S00082/making-history-with-mana-whakahono-a-rohe-agreements.htm>.

³⁰ See “Stonewalling and strange deals: Has NZ become more corrupt?” at http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=11580542; and “Ratepayers charged 500 times more for water than bottling companies” at http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11859175.

³¹ For example, in the case of “Cloud Ocean Water” company’s water bottling consent application, a community petition with gathered in about 70,000 signatures: see <https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/100071658/questionable-claims-about-bottled-new-zealand-water-to-be-sold-in-china>.

³² For a full overview and update on socio-economic concerns, see the Salvation Army’s “10th State of the Nation report” (12 February 2018), available at <http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/research-media/social-policy-and-parliamentary-unit/reports/off-the-track-SON2017>.

³³ See “Green Party co-leader Metiria Turei admits she lied to WINZ, as party announces radical welfare reforms” at http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11891306.

³⁴ See “WINZ bosses murder a beneficiary – Paula Bennet is responsible” at http://www.unite.org.nz/winz_bosses_murder_a_beneficiary_paula_bennet_is_responsible, and “Aggressive prosecution focus at MSD preceded woman's death, inquest told” at <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/87347930/aggressive-prosecution-focus-at-msd-preceded-womans-death-inquest-told>.

³⁵ See for example, <http://basicincome.org/news/2017/10/new-zealand-poll-results/>.

³⁶ For example, the [Pukenui-Houhora Community Development Plan](#) (February 2007) created in cooperation with the Far North District Council.

³⁷ As has been done by Northland Regional Council.