

**BEFORE THE GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL AND HUTT
CITY COUNCIL
EASTERN BAYS SHARED PATH PROJECT**

Under the Resource Management Act 1991

In the matter of applications for resource consents by Hutt
City Council under section 88 of the Act, to
carry out the Eastern Bays Shared Path Project

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF MORRIS TE WHITI LOVE
(CULTURAL EFFECTS AND VALUES) ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT**

15 December 2020

BUDDLEFINDLAY
Barristers and Solicitors
Wellington

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1. Tēnā koutou. Ko **Morris Te Whiti Love** toku ingoa. My name is Morris Te Whiti Love. I provided evidence dated 30 November 2020, on behalf of Hutt City Council ("**HCC**") addressing the potential cultural effects of the proposed Eastern Bays Shared Path Project (the "**Project**"). The main points from my evidence can be summarized as follows.
2. The shoreline of the Project area is adjacent to areas occupied by Māori from the earliest times some 800 years ago. The Project is unlikely to directly affect any of the Pā and kāinga sites along the coastline of the Project area, or the two Māori sites of significance in the Project area. However, HCC has included an accidental discovery protocol in the proposed conditions that will ensure a proper process is applied to taonga Māori if discovered during the construction of the Project.
3. The Project presents an important opportunity to provide for cultural expression and realise cultural benefits, including to enhance the kaitiaki role of iwi mana whenua. HCC will invite representatives from Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika and Ngāti Toa Rangatira to establish a Mana Whenua Steering Group, to facilitate ongoing engagement, provide for kaitiaki inputs into the Project, and ensure tikanga and kawa are followed.
4. Mana whenua have particular interests in the sea fishery and freshwater fishery of the Project area. The careful management of construction in the Project area proposed by HCC and the fish passage provided in the conditions will help ensure that the sea and freshwater fisheries are not further degraded.
5. I also welcome the further measures for avoiding/minimising potential adverse effects proposed by HCC, including protection areas for kororā / little penguins and shoreline foragers, textured seawalls, careful management during construction, and signage and story boards. These measures will lead to improved environmental outcomes.
6. Therefore, the Project should have only minor cultural impacts. HCC has responded to the recommendations in the Cultural Impact Report and the Project will be a welcome addition to the area for all.