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Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment
Accelerating Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Introduction:

Te Arawa River Iwi Trust (TARIT) has its genesis in the Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Raukawa and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010. The Trust represents the three Te Arawa River Iwi; Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa, Ngāti Kearoa-Ngāti Tuarā and Tuhourangi-Ngāti Wāhiao, who assert Mana Whenua, Kaitiakitanga, Ahi Kā, Mana Whakahaere and Mana o te Wai over the Waikato River and its tributaries that run through our rohe.

TARIT is committed to environmental sustainability and strategic goals:

1. Mana Tangata: Enabling our people to participate in the restoration and protection of the Waikato River, tributaries and environments.
2. Mana Taiao: Implementing measures to restore and protect the Waikato tributaries and environments.
3. Mana Mātauranga: Upholding tikanga, preserving wāhi tupuna and enhancing mātauranga of Te Arawa River Iwi.

Statement of Intent:

Our planet is undergoing significant environmental changes due to the threat of climate change. World leaders are becoming more aware that as a response to climate change a complete overhaul of global energy systems must be put in place. It has been identified that renewable energy is becoming a common replacement of fossil fuels, to not only combat environmental and climate change issues, but also as an economic opportunity that low emission energy sources can create.

As stated in the Minister's foreword within the *Discussion Document Accelerating Renewable Energy and Energy and Energy Efficiency*, this Government has ambitious renewable electricity and climate change goals. The Government has acknowledged that we as a country already generate a high proportion of our electricity from hydro and geothermal sources.

Keeping the Minister's foreword in mind, it is highlighted in the *EECA: Renewable Energy Resources*, Aotearoa sources 40% of its total energy from renewable resources, approximately 50% of the total energy is generated from hydroelectric dams, of that 50%, 14% is generated from hydroelectric dams situated on the Waikato River and as stated in the aforementioned, TARIT is one of the river iwi that has a legislative interest in the Waikato River. There are four major hydro dams situated within the TARIT area of interest, and, Ngati Kearoa-Ngati Tuara, a TARIT affiliate, has developed a Micro-Hydro Power Scheme. Also identified within the TARIT area of interest are 8 geothermal power stations that generate a combined capacity of approximately 740MW.

It has been useful reading the *Discussion Document on Accelerating Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency* and assessing it against our Environmental Plan, "Whakamarohitia ngā wai o Waikato" and TARIT welcomes the discussion document on accelerating renewable energy and energy efficiency. TARIT is in favour of moving away from fossil fuels and moving towards renewable energy sources, so long as, any decisions and future outcomes that evolve from this discussion document, and that involves the Waikato River must not be to the detriment of the River Iwi, or TARIT and must take into consideration the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River through Te Ture Whai Mana. However, TARIT has noticed that there has been no sign of Māori input into the creation of this discussion document. As treaty partners, the Government and Government Agencies need to include Māori whakaaro into the creation of these documents. In particular, TARIT is continually being kept out of the design of important legislative documents even-though we hold a Ministerial Accord with MBIE. TARIT expects to be contacted to co-design the next stages of the review. In particular, TARIT would like to see a Māori reference group created, similar to a group created by MPI to review the Biosecurity Act, to assist co-designing the review of the crown minerals act.

TARIT as a co-governing and co-managing partner look forward to the outcome of this discussion document and we look forward to being actively involved in the future development of the Discussion Document: Accelerating Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

If you have any queries please direct these through to

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