

Rāhui Pōkeka has significant Maori history and Kīngitanga and is the largest town in the Waikato District Council.

We need to recognise the importance of Huntly by restoring its original name of Rāhui Pōkeka. Many symbols and institutions are threatened in modern times and we as a community need to value the importance the area holds acknowledging Rāhui Pōkeka as a place rich in significant Maori history by recognising its rightful name as it is a significant historical town not just as an infamous coal mining town.

Restoring the name of Rāhui Pōkeka from Huntly would go a long way to restoring the historical and traditional roots. Maori make up 24% of the total population in our district with 31% being youth. This makes Maori youth a key group to focus on, for example:

Identity is a very important psychological need to any community, and this was stripped from the original inhabitants who first occupied the area as a place to rest and feed, before becoming a military post with extensive coal mines once colonized.

The story of Rāhui Pōkeka is told that the lakes were populated with eels (tuna). The lakes were overfished, so a tohunga said that there will be no more fishing of eels to ensure that there is a sustainable population. He put his pōkeka in the ground to say, until this is removed, there is a rāhui on fishing. So Rāhui Pōkeka is named in recognition of the eel stocks and upholding the principles of kaitiakitanga in local waterways.

The Prime Minister, Governor General and M.P's recognise in writings Rāhui Pōkeka as Huntly's rightful name, suggesting this submission gain Council support to progress this through to an application to the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa.

Righting Wrongs

Taupiri Mountain is one of the most sacred and important urupā in the country. In the late 1860's the national highway and North Island railway lines were laid past the sacred Taupiri Mountain burial grounds effectively cutting off mourners' access.

To fulfil obligations and understand local needs there is a need to be mindful of '*cultural values and/or cultural impacts*,' and areas of significance such as a urupā being upheld. Mayor Sanson's efforts with the on/off ramps from Huntly is particularly powerful as it will also right the wrong done at Taupiri Mountain urupā by significantly reducing traffic volumes even after the Waikato Expressway is opened.

Included in part of our submission to the Long Term District **Plan 2018 regarding this is the Policy-Whanaungatanga**. It states '*recognise the relationship of Tangata Whenua with areas of significance, including urupā, maunga and other landforms...*' **Solutions would include any form of reducing national/local traffic flows past the urupā at Taupiri Mountain and would include a Huntly on/off ramp at McVie Road, Huntly, rather than assigning all traffic via Huntly and surrounding districts to still travel past the urupā once the new Expressway is operating.**