

## **Environment Court Hearing**

### **Waikato Regional Council vs Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board**

The Environment Court will be sitting in Taupo for a week from 24 July 2017 to hear an appeal lodged by Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board against the Waikato Regional Council's decision to grant various resource consents to Rotokawa Joint Venture (Tauhara North No.2 Trust and Mercury). The consents authorise some relatively minor adaptations to how the Rotokawa Geothermal Resource is managed. Such adaptations will improve the sustainability of the geothermal resource and ensure maximum efficiency of the sites existing infrastructure.

The appellant, Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board, claim the Council's decision does not take account of their cultural interests at Rotokawa. They claim that mana whenua of the Rotokawa area is not exclusively held by Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa and that Tuwharetoa too has mana whenua over the land and resources there. The Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board seek new conditions of consent that enable them to exercise Kaitiakitanga at Rotokawa.

Rotokawa Joint Venture (Tauhara North No.2 Trust and Mercury) and Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa Runanga Trust have submitted evidence in support of the Council's decision. Our case reaffirms Tauhara North No.2 Trust and Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa as rightful Kaitiaki for the Rotokawa area, geothermal resource and related taonga.

If you have time to attend the Court hearing and would like to show your support, please come along.

Details provided below:

Commencing: **Monday, 24 July 2017**

Time: **10:00 AM**

Venue: Rangatira Room  
Huka Falls Resort  
56 Huka Falls Road  
TAUPO