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RESPONSE TO *Central Otago District Council Plan Change 19*

7 September 2022

To: Central Otago District Council
PO Box 122
Alexandra
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Submission lodged by email – districtplan@codc.govt.nz

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Hokonui Rūnanga welcomes the opportunity to respond to the draft Plan Change 19.
- 1.2 Hokonui Rūnanga is deeply invested in the future of the many towns and settlements within their takiwā, its residents, and the many taonga and culturally significant areas within its boundaries. Their key aspirations are to ensure that these taonga are managed “mō tatou, ā, mō kā uri a muri ake nei” (for us all and our children after us), and that the rights and interests of Hokonui Rūnanga and all Māori within their takiwā are heard, respected, and realised.
- 1.3 Hokonui Rūnanga support the intention of the draft plan change. There are, however, a number of positions on key issues it recommends Central Otago District Council consider. These relate to:
 - The absence of Māori Purpose Zoning in this plan change
 - The extensive matters of discretion attached to some Restricted Discretionary activities
 - The lack of Accidental Discovery Protocols included alongside earthworks provisions
- 1.4 These are outlined in detail below

2 Ngāi Tahu and Hokonui Rūnanga

- 2.1 Ngāi Tahu are mana whenua within the Central Otago District. Ngāi Tahu means “people of Tahu”, and is the iwi comprised of Ngāi Tahu whānui; the collective of individuals who descend from five primary hapū of Kāti Kurī, Ngāti Irakehu, Kāti Huirapa, Ngāi Tūāhuriri, and Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki. Ngāi Tahu whānui hold mana whenua status for large tracts of Te Waipounamu, from Te Parinui o Whiti (White Bluffs) and Kahurangi Point in the north through to Rakiura (Stewart Island), the Tītī Islands, and a selection of other sub-Antarctic islands in the south.
- 2.2 Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu is statutorily recognised as the representative tribal body of Ngāi Tahu whānui under section 6 of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 (the Act). Hokonui Rūnanga

is one of the 18 Papatipu Rūnanga that make up Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Hokonui Rūnanga is mandated to represent Ngāi Tahu whānui individuals who whakapapa to the takiwā of Hokonui Rūnanga, as set out in the Act. This takiwā centres on the Māruawai region, and extends throughout large tracts of Central Otago and Southland, including shared interests in the areas under the jurisdiction of Central Otago District Council.

- 2.3 There are currently over 15,000 Hokonui Rūnanga whānau members, and over 55,000 registered Ngāi Tahu individuals. Hokonui Rūnanga therefore notes that this response to Plan Change 19 should not be treated as a single comment, but should be afforded an appropriate status and weight that recognises the collective that it represents.

3 Treaty Partnership

- 3.1 Hokonui Rūnanga would like to highlight their status as a Treaty Partner - not just to Crown entities at a Central Government level, but also to Local Authorities such as Central Otago District Council. It is understood that the process of regulatory responsibility delegation to Local Authorities (via the Local Government Act 2002, and the Resource Management Act 1991) brings with it an associated transfer of Treaty partnership responsibilities to district and regional councils.
- 3.2 The outcomes sought by Hokonui Rūnanga through this response are indeed those that are considered by Hokonui Rūnanga as being the most appropriate in the context of the use by mana whenua of their lands and waters.

4 Hokonui Rūnanga Interests in Plan Change 19

- 4.1 Hokonui Rūnanga highlight the following overarching values/matters of interest as underpinning their response to the draft Plan Change 19:
- 4.2 **Rangatiratanga**
Tino rangatiratanga is having the right to make decisions impacting the taonga and resources within their takiwā. This means determining what, from Ngāi Tahu perspectives, represents satisfactory environmental conditions and appropriate land use for Hokonui Rūnanga.
- 4.3 **Manaakitanga**
Showing manaaki (looking after visitors) is a key expression of Māori identity. Conversely, the inability to manaaki guests and sustain relationships can lead to a loss of identity. Sustaining waters, lands, resources, and opportunities to provide services that are grounded in the concept of manaakitanga are strong drivers for the participation of Hokonui Rūnanga in planning processes.
- 4.3 **Ahi kā**
Ahi kā is fundamental to land tenure for Māori – it shows the rights of hapū to an area through continuous occupation. Ahi kā is also used to describe the home people – the ones who live on their whenua, who keep the home fires burning, who keep undertaking their practices and connections to place in their takiwā. Hokonui Rūnanga aspire to manage their natural resources and taonga in ways that create opportunities for more Ngāi Tahu whānau to move

back into their takiwā, and encourage whānau already living there to stay, whilst strengthening the visible presence of mana whenua within the Ngāi Tahu takiwā through various avenues.

5 Hokonui Rūnanga Position and Response

5.1 The Hokonui Rūnanga response to Plan Change 19 is:

5.2 Hokonui Rūnanga support the plan change provisions except where they recommend specific amendments or additions. The amendments/additions/retentions they seek to Plan Change 19 are to better incorporate the overarching values of Hokonui Rūnanga as they relate to the rights, interests, and responsibilities they hold as mana whenua within their takiwā. These reasons apply to every decision requested in this response, along with any additional specific reasons discussed in this section.

5.3 Generally, Hokonui Rūnanga support the intent of Plan Change 19. They recognise the need for councils to update their respective plans to reflect the National Planning Standards, and congratulate the council for working with the local community through strategic planning processes to inform the changes to residential land uses proposed by this plan change.

5.4 Hokonui Rūnanga, however, queries why the potential for Māori Purpose Zones seems to not have been explored as part of this plan change. Plan Change 19 introduces the majority of the new residential-based zones approved by the National Planning Standards, meaning that Māori Purpose Zoning becomes conspicuous in its absence. We expect that these conversations will be forthcoming as part of further plan changes and strategic planning processes in the near future.

5.5 Hokonui Rūnanga also notes that the matters of discretion for activities such as retirement villages and community facilities are inappropriately long – thus making these activities almost Discretionary in practice (as opposed to their intended Restricted Discretionary). To better reflect the desires of the local community, and the actual listed activity status of these activities, it is strongly recommended that these matters of discretion be revised down to a more targeted list.

5.6 Finally, Hokonui Rūnanga strongly recommend that the requirement to adhere to an approved an Accidental Discovery Protocol for kōiwi (human remains) and taonga tūturu (Māori artifacts) be incorporated into the earthworks provisions via this plan change. This is in line with Te Tangi a Taurira: Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku Natural Resource & Environmental Iwi Management Plan 2008. Hokonui Rūnanga is happy to discuss this matter further with Central Otago District Council and support them to identify an appropriate ADP to adopt.

5.7 Decisions sought:

5.8 Any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the decisions sought are also requested.

5.9 Hokonui Rūnanga **DO NOT** wish to be heard in support of this response.

Nāhaku noa, nā

Dated: 07/09/22 extension provided by CODC

Riki Parata
Kaiarihi Taiao (Environmental Lead)
Hokonui Rūnanga Kaupapa Taiao

Date: 07/09/22 *extension provided by CODC*

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