



## NEWS RELEASE

31 August 2017

### NGAA RAURU APPEALS EPA DECISION & SLAMS GOVERNMENT FOR UNFAIR AND UNJUST SYSTEM

Te Kaahui o Rauru Chairman Marty Davis today announced that the iwi has lodged an appeal against the Environmental Protection Authority decision to grant consent to Trans Tasman Resources.

Mr Davis said it wasn't a hard decision to appeal on cultural, environmental, ethical and moral grounds, but it was costly and that had made it a challenging choice. Mr Davis stressed that this was a New Zealand-wide issue.

“Whilst seabed mining has been approved for Taranaki, it will spread quickly across the country unless it's stopped.”

He said the appeal was one of multiple actions the iwi would take to stop seabed mining and protect the marine environment.

Kaiwhakahaere (CEO) Anne-Marie Broughton said: “This is a match fight and we're in the first round. We urge every New Zealander to take this matter seriously, get informed and get involved with the fight to stop seabed mining before it's too late.”

Ms Broughton said the playing field was tilted strongly in favour of resource-rich applicants.

“There is no legal assistance fund available to community, hapuu and iwi groups to appeal the EPA decision, unlike under the Resource Management Act. This closes down natural justice and puts all the cost on iwi and community groups – it's unfair and unjust and a deliberate strategy to disempower communities and support extractive industries. We should be very, very afraid,” she said.

Te Kaahui o Rauru will be urgently petitioning the Attorney-General and Minister for the Environment to allow this case to access environmental legal aid and for the rules to be changed.

“The playing field is not level. Big business is throwing huge money at this exploitive industry, and iwi and communities are fighting it without the input of the government department that's meant to stand up for conservation.”

That the Department of Conservation hadn't participated in the EPA hearing was another pressure point in this situation, Ms Broughton said.

“We have to appeal – it’s our responsibility as Kaitiaki, but it’s a burden. However, someone has to take a stand for our marine environment and we acknowledge those other groups that have appealed and everyone else that is showing their support for this cause.”

**For further information, please contact Anne-Marie Broughton on 027 342 3005.**