



1. My name is Tony Pascoe. I am here with my wife Debbie.
2. We are from Ahititi and live at the head of the Mangapepeke Valley. We own the land that the proposed NZTA Mt Messenger alignment has been identified for.
3. I do not have formal qualifications, but I am here as an affected landowner, stakeholder, guardian, holder of the knowledge, traditions and values through my long connection with this valley. Through my wife, our children and grandchildren, I am part of Poutama iwi.
4. I am 60 years old and have lived there all my life. We live in the same house I was raised in. We have raised our family there. Our grandchildren visit and stay with us there. Other people come and bring their families to learn about the natural environment and ecosystems.
5. Fog regularly sits so still and low in the valley that it's difficult to see a few short metres in front of you. Photos attached.
6. After heavy rains, which is often, especially in winter, water rises and sits for hours, sometimes days, in the valley. Photos attached.
7. Parts of the valley are constantly shady and never have sun in it, especially during winter. Black ice forms and stays there for very long periods of time.
8. The valley floor of our farm makes up approximately 30 – 50 % of swamp and wetlands but is realistically more like 60% in the winter. The area NZTA are seeking to designate and damage includes all the natural values; the valley floor including the wetlands, springs, streams and all the life in them.
9. We pay rates for the whole parcel as farm land but can only farm a small portion of it. We have left as much of the valley in its natural state as possible. We have not recontoured all the land and turned the "meandering stream" into a drain. When it rains the floodwater disperses over the valley floor and the natural swales. As a result, the silt is deposited on the land. The stream doesn't get choked up with silt or scoured. We have not sprayed any of the vegetation, wetlands and stream.
10. We have been able to live off the land to survive. We have made ends meet by pig hunting and possum trapping for the family. As a teenager I started cutting ponga and firewood for sale. We still do this. We regularly give pork and pigs to people. We pick watercress for our household from the valley streams. We let people take eels and crayfish for tangi as well.
11. The atmosphere within the valley has a healing effect. Mangapepeke seems to have very high oxygen levels which influences our health and well-being. If we are feeling under the weather, we will walk up the valley for the fresh air, peacefulness and healing. The valley is a calm and peaceful place.
12. The whole valley is largely a wetland and is home to eels, crayfish, tom tits, grey robin, pigeons, NZ falcon, morepork, kiwi, fantails, kokopu, inanga, to name just a few.
13. There are springs in the valley where the water is as pristine as the air. Photo attached.
14. One of the many trees is a very large rimu, it is approximately 1.5 metres in diameter. Photo attached. According to the NZTA reports, these natural features will be destroyed for the proposed road.
15. Quite often, representatives for NZTA, would arrive at and access our property with no notice.

16. NZTA advised on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2018 that the haul road alignment and design has not be confirmed and the intended road alignment has been changed. They have not told me where it has been changed to. I haven't received details or sufficient information to be able to understand the effects.
17. NZTA have met with us over 24 times. Nearly all these meetings have been tense, confrontational, condescending and distressing. The below are some of the comments made to us at some of those meetings;
- You will have no home..
  - The construction noise will be atrocious..
  - You shouldn't have those people here (our support people)..
  - How much is your mortgage?..
  - Your house might be special to you but it doesn't have much value..
  - Can we broach 5 years down the track, what would your life be like if we hadn't come along...

### Conclusion

18. I believe the application should be declined.
19. I believe several million dollars and destruction of a natural organic ecosystem full of native trees, natural springs, steams, fresh water fish, invertebrates and bird life. The ~~opt~~ *chosen* option is reckless, extremely expensive and potentially dangerous.
20. Because of the significant effect this decision may have, I believe it is important that the commissioner, Mr Stephen Daysh, physically walks over and takes a closer look, up the valley. I use this forum to formally invite you to do so.
21. While I acknowledge and accept that land is needed from time to time for a public work; I am someone who knows every inch of that valley, probably better than anyone else in this room. I have seen all the elements and weather conditions. I cannot emphasise enough that this valley is absolutely the wrong place to make a new road.
22. You cannot put a commercial place into a natural world, without it destroying the life force and natural energy of that world.

Tony Pascoe







