

CROWN/MĀORI RELATIONS HUI NOTES

Date of hui:	19 May 2018
Venue:	Puketeraki Marae, Karitane, Dunedin
Attendees:	Approx. 30 hui participants Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Crown/Māori Relations Te Rau Kupenga, Crown Facilitator Officials from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Crown/Māori Relations Roopū, Te Tāhū o te Ture/ Ministry of Justice• Te Puni Kōkiri

These notes provide a broad overview of the key points raised by participants and do not represent minutes of the hui. The headings used in this note correlate with the information contained in the pamphlet “Te Ara Whakamua ā tātou – Crown/Māori relations” (which can be found at <https://www.justice.govt.nz/maori-land-treaty/crown-maori-relations/initial-proposals-from-government/>).

Main issues and opportunities raised at the hui

- *Commemorating the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi* – A couple of speakers noted that Ngāi Tahu annually commemorates the signing of the Treaty each year (on Waitangi Day) by hosting an event at either Akaroa, Otakou or Ruapuke Island where the Treaty was signed. One speaker emphasised that the annual event helps to raise local awareness of the Treaty, while another speaker emphasised the events help educate locals about the ongoing Crown/iwi relationship and that it’s based on the Treaty.
- *Regional growth and development* – A couple of speakers noted that the Ngāi Tahu Treaty settlement provided a platform for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to leverage regional growth and development through Crown/local community collaboration, ‘*if Māori do well, the country does well. If Māori do well, we all do well.*’
- *Iwi/Māori representation on local government* – A couple of speakers indicated that iwi representation on local authorities was important. One speaker was not supportive of Māori Wards at the local government level because they considered the current referendum process to be flawed. Instead that speaker indicated that they prefer that local government should actively achieve participation in decision-making through actively collaborating with the relevant local Ngāi Tahu rūnaka.
- *Improving Māori Health outcomes* – One speaker noted that it was important that the resources allocated to Māori health were increased and remained separate from the resources focused on improving general health outcomes. This is because they thought such a reallocation would be to the detriment of improving Māori health outcomes if this did happen.

- *Tax system needs to be fair and equitable* – One speaker was not confident that New Zealand’s current tax system was fair and equitable, while another speaker suggested that New Zealand was currently used as a tax haven through foreign ownership of assets and that this undermined a fair and equitable tax system.
- *Use of the Ngāi Tahu Law Centre* – The Ngāi Tahu Law Centre was mentioned by a couple of speakers as being very efficient and useful for Ngāi Tahu and Mātāwaka, and needs better resourcing.
- *Lawful recognition of kaitiaki status over wai required* – one speaker stated that Ngāi Tahu are kaitiaki of water in their region and that this needs to be recognised in law.
- *Supporting rangatahi* – A few speakers suggested that focusing on improving outcomes for rangatahi should be a government priority, including thinking about succession planning and assisting whānau to be engaged.
- *Tourism projects* – One speaker noted that the whānau at Puketeraki had entered into a tourism venture to create employment and learning opportunities for rangatahi, “only our people can bring the ‘authentic’ experience, and operators look for our stories”. That speaker sought assistance from the Crown to support such endeavours.
- *Supporting alternative education system* – One speaker indicated that they were looking to set-up an alternative school that supports tamariki growing into leaders with relevant iwi knowledge and skills for this day and age. The speaker questioned whether the government was willing to support such initiatives that enabled iwi to determine at the local level the education required to support tamariki development.

The Crown’s intent

- *Partnership* – A few speakers noted that the Treaty provides for a partnership between the Crown and iwi/Māori. The term ‘partnership’ is the key term to be reflected in documentation rather than the Crown/Māori ‘relationship’ which just means you should relate to each other (rather than act as partners).
- *Working together* – A few speakers noted that the Crown and iwi/Māori need to work together. They elaborated that certain government agencies had ‘lost sight of the Treaty partnership (i.e. working together)’ and instead focused on what they could or could not do. The Ngāi Tahu relationship with the Department of Conservation (DOC) was talked about as an example of this where “DOC think about what they want to do or not do, despite the Conservation Act including a provision which says they must give effect to the Treaty partnership - working with Ngāi Tahu”.

Ngā uara: Values

- *Trust* – A couple of speakers noted that the government needs to rebuild trust and confidence with iwi/Māori, so that history does not repeat itself. Trust needs to underpin the Crown/Māori Relations work programme going forward.
- *Recognition of the Treaty* – A couple of speakers indicated that the Treaty underpins the Crown/Māori Relations work and that this needs to be explicitly recognised. This means working in partnership on issues and solutions rather than being consulted on the favoured Crown option.

What's the best way for the Crown and Māori to engage?

- *Iwi / Māori are not stakeholders* – A couple of speakers indicated that iwi/Māori are not 'stakeholders' but should be recognised as 'Treaty partners' in any engagement process.
- *Relationship and engagement model* – There were a variety of views about how the Crown could best engage with iwi / Māori. Some speakers indicated that the Crown should engage with iwi and hapū, while other speakers stated that the relationship should occur at the hapū and rūnaka level for regional issues (and where the relationship occurs with local government), and for national issues the Crown should interact with iwi and Māori organisations. One speaker said that iwi, hapū, whānau and Māori organisations will in good faith enter into discussions but need to be resourced to have these discussions by either central or local government. Without resourcing the goodwill of iwi, hapū, whānau and Māori organisations has become 'rundown' which impacts on trust and the ongoing Crown/Māori relationship. A couple of speakers also emphasised that continuity of personal is key to any relationship and that staff changes can disrupt the institutional knowledge, common understandings reached and the underlying relationship.

Possible Crown/Māori Relations Priorities

- *Improving state sector capability* – A few people talked about the need for a significant improvement in the cultural capability of government officials when working with iwi / Māori. One speaker emphasised this point in relation to the limited recognition given by government departments to Māori rights and interests under the Treaty, te ao Māori and te reo Māori. Another speaker indicated the need for 'head office officials and leaders' to be more cognisant of 'regional office' staff views – as the regional office staff are more likely to understand the reality of Māori communities. It was suggested by a couple of speakers that the government should undertake a survey of Māori public servants seeking insight into how they feel the Treaty and Crown/Māori relationship works for Māori.
- *Audit of government departments effectiveness* – A couple of people proposed a cultural or 'Treaty audit' of the effectiveness of government departments, like the one undertaken at Otago University.
- *Whenua Māori reform* – A few people wanted to be given more information about what was happening with the reform of Whenua Māori legislation. They noted there was a need for reform to enable the better utilisation of whenua Māori. A couple of speakers also raised concerns about:
 - the complexities of multiple ownership and land development;
 - the resourcing to administer succession to lands is bureaucratic and is not helping whānau to succeed; and
 - a peppercorn lease on land that was under the administration of the council.

Actions:

- No written submissions were tabled at the hui