

- Date of hui:** 29 April 2018
- Venue:** Te Papaïouru Marae, Rotorua
- Attendees:** Approx. 85 hui participants
Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Crown/Māori Relations
Tamati Coffey MP
Deborah Mahuta-Coyle, Senior Ministerial Advisor to Hon Davis
Te Rau Kupenga, Crown Facilitator
Officials from:
- Crown/Māori Relations Roopu (Te Tāhū o te Ture - Ministry of Justice); and
 - 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/Māori_land-treaty/crown-Māori_relations/initial-proposals-from-government/).

Main issues and opportunities raised at the hui

- *The Treaty of Waitangi and partnership* - many speakers referred to the importance of the Treaty and partnership, that this shouldn't be the government dictating to Māori, and that the Crown/Māori Relations portfolio could turn the Treaty into a positive brand.
- *Whenua*- several speakers referred to issues developing land due to 'red tape', restrictions on use of land by local authorities or high local authority rates and feeling alienated from the land because of these restrictions. Those same speakers spoke of the difficulty of Māori having to seek resource consents to utilise their own land and are expected to pay for resource consents. A key theme on this point was that financial restrictions limit Māori from full use of their whenua and developing papakainga.
- *Treaty settlements and post settlement issues* - two speakers referred to the government leasing or renewing leases on land that is part of a Treaty settlement without reference to the post settlement governance entity (PSGE) and the funds from the leases going to the government department. This demonstrated that while the Accords work well for those with relationships with government agencies, settlements are not 'fair' and commitments become disconnected through the changing officials. Treaty settlement Protocols with government agencies are operational in nature and don't deal with strategic issues. One speaker noted that the Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS) removed Ngāti Whakāue from the OTS work programme because Ngāti Whakāue would not agree with the Crown's position. The same speaker also noted that some hapū were included in the settlements of larger groups despite not wanting to be and that this was a demonstration of the settlements not being 'fair'.

- *Corrections/Prisons* – A couple of speakers talked about some great programmes in the region for inmates who leave prison but that there is a need for more government support to grow the programmes. Many speakers noted that the Māori prison population is an issue for all New Zealanders, and referred to rehabilitation and reintegration as important. Two speakers said the Māori focus units do not work and should be run by Māori. A few speakers requested that prisoners should have the right to vote.
- *Local government* – Several speakers indicated that rules around Māori wards are not good- anyone can challenge the creation of Māori wards and this needs to change. Some speakers talked about how councils need to work better together (two different councils in the area). One speaker noted that funding for the clean-up of the lakes goes to Council and the Te Arawa Lakes Trust receives no funding meaning the partnership between the Trust and Council is unbalanced. The same speaker noted that the Trust self-fund their participation in local government and that Council staff question the necessity of the participation of the Lakes Trust in decisions relating to the clean-up of the lakes. Several speakers recommended that local government need to understand the legislative obligations that come out of Treaty settlements.
- *Drug use* – A couple of speakers noted homelessness incentivises drug use.
- *Public service capability* - several speakers said Crown officials need to be better trained in relation to Treaty issues and tikanga Māori, and that this includes officials at Crown entities (for example Treaty training should be given to the Governance Boards of DHBs). A couple of speakers suggested that government agencies needed to talk to each other better and present a united face / joined-up approach.
- *Investing in Māori enterprise* –One speaker indicated that there was the potential to promote Brand Aotearoa (NZ Inc + Māori Inc = Aotearoa Inc), noting in Australia there are targets for government agencies spending on indigenous businesses and employment outcomes. The speaker noted this approach to brand Aotearoa could positively impact whānau business and enterprise and that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Treasury are looking at this. The speaker further noted that in Canada First Nations partner with local authorities on infrastructure projects, and recommended that Māori solutions and community solutions should be invested in.
- *Crown/Māori relationship* - a number of speakers said it was good the Minister was doing face to face hui to listen to Māori. Many speakers referred to the relationship historically as not being good, while two speakers said the relationship should not be determined by Pākeha.

The Crown's intent

- *Treaty of Waitangi* - many speakers referred to the Treaty as underpinning the Crown/ Māori relationship, and that there was a need for the Crown to honour the Treaty. Many speakers also noted the importance of the Crown not breaching the Treaty in the future, turning the Treaty into a positive brand.
- *Partnership* - many speakers referred to the need for partnership between the Crown and Māori, not the government dictating to Māori nor treating Māori as stakeholders.

Ngā uara: Values

- *Partnership* - Many speakers referred to the importance of partnership underlying the Crown/ Māori relationship and that this should be an equal partnership.
- *Kindness, trust and honour* – Several speakers recommended that the government must engage with kindness and trust, indicating that your word is your honour.
- *Christian values* - one speaker noted the importance of Christian values.

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

- *Clear communication*- A few speakers suggested that the Crown/Māori Relations portfolio needs to operate in a manner that is fair, open, and clear, with access to the Minister. Local iwi should be advised when a Minister of the Crown will be visiting their rohe and the purpose of the visit.
- *Engagement with hapū and individuals*- Several speakers indicated that the Iwi Chairs Forum or PSGEs do not necessarily represent hapū views, and that hapū need to have a seat at the decision-making table. One speaker noted that PSGEs do not represent all individuals so individuals should be given a voice.
- *Rangatahi engagement*- One speaker noted the need to ensure that rangatahi feel included in central and local government engagement processes, including rangatahi who don't speak te reo Māori or affiliate to a marae.

Possible Crown/Māori Relations Priorities

- *Local government* – Many speakers recommended:
 - that local government needs to work better for Māori,
 - better involvement of iwi/Māori in local government decision making processes,
 - local government need to understand their Treaty settlement obligations and honour them.
- *Minister for Crown/Māori Relations as an advocate* – Several speakers suggested that the Minister could encourage colleagues to deliver services that targeted Māori aspirations and needs and that the Minister could monitor those services and hold Ministerial colleagues accountable for the services they deliver for Māori.
- *Data and statistics* – Two speakers recommended the need to unleash the power of data, and in particular collecting and use of the right data by iwi and hapū.
- *Corrections/Prisons* – Many speakers recommended that the government needs to address the number of Māori in prison, provide more support for rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, and provide more Māori run programmes for Māori in prison.
- *Māori involvement in policy* – Several speakers recommended that Māori should be involved in the co-design of policy and developing and monitoring measures for success. An example was that there should be no social or justice sector trials without input from Māori.
- *Investing in Māori enterprise*- Several speakers suggested the government should prioritise spending on Māori enterprise and employment as it would likely have positive impacts for whānau businesses. A couple of speakers suggested that there should be Māori involvement in big infrastructure projects, and that generally government should consider how to better fund Māori solutions that improve outcomes.

- *Public sector capability and cultural competency*- Many speakers suggested that the government needs to upskill on tikanga and te reo Māori, and to understand how to deal with Treaty and Māori issues and Treaty settlement obligations.
- *Removing red tape around land use* – Several speakers recommended that there was a need to make it easier to utilise land and ensuring Māori are not limited by financial restrictions from full use of land for papakainga housing.

Actions:

- 4 written submissions tabled and have been entered into the Ministry of Justice submissions database
- Request for the Minister of Corrections to meet to discuss issues from Stuart Edwards of Mahi Tahi Trust.
- A letter was sent by Ngāti Tarāwhai to the Minister of Conservation. Receipt was acknowledged but no response to content.
- Billy Macfarlane requested that the Ministry of Justice help him to set-up a discussion with a senior Corrections official from the National office to discuss the possibility of continuing to fund a specific rehabilitation programme.
- Pauline Tangohau (Chair of Ngāti Whakaue Committee and Board Member of Ngāti Rangiwewehi) requested responses for two actions from the Minister for Crown/Māori Relations:
 - Talk to the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations to get their negotiations back on track after being advised their settlement position was too far apart from the Crown's to reach settlement; and
 - Funding support from the Post-Settlement Commitment's Unit for Ngāti Rangiwewehi's PSGE.