

CROWN/MĀORI RELATIONS HUI NOTES

Date of hui:	28 April 2018
Venue:	Mātai Whetu Marae, Thames
Government representatives	Approx. 45 hui participants Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Crown/Māori Relations Deborah Mahuta-Coyle, Senior Ministerial Advisor to Hon Davis Te Rau Kupenga, Crown Facilitator Officials from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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

- *Cohesive and integrated approach* – Many speakers spoke of the need for a joined-up approach:
 - from government departments providing for service and community delivery in both urban and rural communities;
 - from the education, health, housing, justice, social sectors to address in a holistic manner the compounding impact on Māori;
 - from government agencies involved in planning and the execution of services to unlock economic development and significantly improve social outcomes – including infrastructure, roads for movement of fishing, marine, farming, and forestry, employment and small business opportunities, resource management, fresh water.
- *Rural economic development* – Many speakers indicated that relationships, economic development and coordination needs to be centred from within the region rather than from Wellington. National agendas and programmes need to be connected to local councils and agencies for implementation, which needs capability and/or capacity for implementation and general engagement. Several speakers noted there was a need for significant improvement of infrastructure to enable economic development, and incentivise businesses in the regions.
- *Education* – Several speakers noted that the current education system is failing Māori children in this region, and needs to be addressed.
- *Health* – A few speakers noted the delay in the region’s health system for providing operations for Māori.

- *Government services* – Several speakers noted there is widespread insufficient services on the ground to address Māori needs across health, education and housing, and that the statistics reflect the inadequate standards of the services delivered.
- *Whenua* – A couple of speakers indicated minimal iwi-owned land within their tribal boundary, and that the Department of Conservation retained ownership of a substantial amount of whenua.
- *Revitalisation of Te Reo o Hauraki* – A few speakers sought a commitment from government to assist with the revitalisation of te reo Māori with an emphasis on te reo o Hauraki
- *Awa* – A couple of speakers suggested that the Piako River is second dirtiest river in the country, and indicated that the pollution occurred under both central and local government administration.
- *Water ownership* – A couple of speakers indicated the government needs to address the Māori / iwi rights and interests in water.
- *Local government* – Many speakers noted:
 - a need to review the Local Government Act to ensure it provides for meaningful and genuine consultation with Māori and to require a Māori voice at the decision-making table through establishing Māori Wards;
 - Community and council planning needs to involve Māori, and reflect them in the long-term council plan.
- *Capability* – Some speakers discussed the need for a significant improvement in:
 - the cultural competency of officials; and
 - the ability of officials to deal with Māori issues more responsively.
 - giving effect to, and the implementation of signed agreements (rather than developing ‘Māori responsiveness plans’ – which in the speaker’s view did not reflect the original purpose of the signed agreement).
- *Need to reframe the value Māori bring to NZ society* - A couple of speakers talked about the need to change the narrative of some Crown representatives that label Māori as a net national problem, and instead reframe how Māori add value to NZ society including with the increase in population by 2040 will be central to increasing NZ’s prosperity and central to the NZ national identity. The narrative change will help change how society thinks and may assist with improving outcomes for Māori.
- *Cultural competency* – Many speakers sought a sea change of cultural attitudes and government representatives in all parts/institutions of government.
- *State Services Commission* – A couple of speakers asked for a review of the State Sector system and SSC guidelines to provide for building public service capability for engaging with Māori issues and people.
- *Treaty Settlements and Post-settlement* – A couple of speakers discussed the opportunity for a creative relationship to occur between kāwanatanga and tino rangatiratanga. Some speakers do not consider that iwi are being treated in good faith by government post-settlement. Two speakers indicated they were dissatisfied with the Crown expectation for hapū or small claims (that have not been heard by the Tribunal) to be represented through larger mandated iwi bodies, further creating conditions for grievance.
- *Māori are not stakeholders* – A few speakers noted that Māori are descendants of Treaty of Waitangi signatories and should not be treated as stakeholders or as another ethnic minority.

- *Crown administration of partnership* – A couple of speakers talked about how the participation of mana whenua and tangata whenua in planning processes is voluntary and resourced at own expense while the government/council staff are on salaries. The speakers suggested that the Crown/councils should resource mana whenua and tangata whenua to participate.
- *Identity documents* – One speaker indicated a concern about Crown access, administration and use of identity documents (e.g. birth certificates etc).

The Crown's intent

- *Fairness* – A couple of speakers indicated that the Crown's intent needed to be based on being fair, noting that NZ's history has been tainted by mechanisms and processes that in the speaker's views have been unfair, have failed Māori and only benefited the Crown.
- *Concern about whether the Crown's intent is real* – Many speakers indicated support for the establishment of the Crown/Māori Relations portfolio, but also noted concerns about whether the intent of the portfolio can transform the way central and local government operate.

Ngā uara: Values

- *Commitment to withstand time* – A couple of speakers indicated that when governments change so does their interpretation of what's been previously agreed. This means that the values need to withstand changes of government.

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

- *Relationships* – A couple of speakers suggested that the Crown should engage with iwi or hapū as agreed Treaty settlements will drive the Crown/Māori relationship.
- *Ongoing and effective communication* – Several speakers recommended that the Crown establish and maintain good communications pathways between the Crown and Māori. Those speakers indicated that there needed to be more dialogue with Ministers (rather than officials) kanohi te kanohi. Relationship agreements in Treaty settlements were setting the foundation for creating a commitment from Ministers and officials to build and maintain relationships. Further, those speakers noted that pre-settlement relationships between iwi/Māori and the Crown have tended to be fraught and ineffective.
- *Face to face*: Engage kanohi ki te kanohi at marae or in region to enable in-depth dialogue.

Possible Crown/Māori Relations Priorities

- *Joined-up social sector delivering services at the local level* - Integrated and coordinated approach to delivery in rural areas for social sector.
- *Water* - Address water pollution and Māori/iwi rights and interests in water.
- *Prisons* – focus on preventing Māori incarceration in prisons – this requires taking a holistic approach that involves a wider social sector change.
- *Constitutional reform* – Constitutional reform needs to be progressed – firming putting in place Te Tiriti at the centre of the NZ constitution. This would also reinforce that Te Tiriti forms the basis of the Crown/Māori relationship.

- *Changing the public service system and capability improvement* – There is a need for a sea change in how the public service works including:
 - how the public service gives effect to Māori rights, interests, needs and aspirations;
 - how the public service effectively implements Treaty settlement agreements;
 - modifying how the public service behaves.

This also requires a significant increase in the cultural competency of the public service.

Actions:

- The Hauraki Māori Trust Board invited the Minister to meet with them to further discuss the scope and priorities for the Crown/Māori Relations portfolio.
- One written submission tabled and has been entered into the Ministry of Justice submissions database.