

Date of hui:	8 April 2018
Venue:	Terenga Paraoa Marae, Whangarei
	Approx 120 participants Minister for Crown/Māori Relations and officials

These notes provide a broad overview of the key points raised by participants and are not 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

- *Treaty Settlements* – Some attendees raised issues around the negotiation and implementation of Treaty settlements, specifically the necessity of cultural competence among Crown employees. Many speakers stated that Ngāpuhi will never accept the suggestion they don't have a right to govern. Other attendees expressed a desire for Ngāpuhi to represent themselves and all Māori internationally. One speaker stated a need for a durable settlement for Ngāti Hine.
- *Local Government* – There was widespread dissatisfaction expressed at the lack of ability for Māori to be decision makers at a local government level. Many speakers expressed the view that local government is where all the power is vested, yet Māori don't have any meaningful say in it. A common view expressed was that Māori should be resourced to engage better with local authorities and that the law should be changes so that they sit at the council decision-making table.
- *The Crown/Māori Relationship* – Hui participants asked what resources are available to strengthen the relationship? Some participants said they see the opportunity to share power between Crown and Maori. Other participants expressed a need for New Zealanders to figure out how to decolonise the relationship. One speaker said we should keep our eye on 2040 – the 200th anniversary of Te Tiriti. One participant said the Crown should acknowledge that noone speaks for ALL Māori.
- *Environment* – Hui participants saw the need for a greater role for Māori in monitoring environmental impacts.
- *Economic development* – Northland needs greater economic development and the people of Northland are keen to work with government to grow the regional economy for the benefit of all.

- *Central Government Agencies* – Some participants expressed the desire that civics be taught in schools. Others considered that some government department staff had patronising attitudes towards Māori that must be addressed. There was a view expressed that the bureaucracy and middle-management of central government presented a barrier to the Crown/Māori relationship that needs to be addressed if opportunities are to be realised.
- *Education* – One participant said the Crown has to get real if it wants a relationship with Māori with all ministries, especially Education. The same speaker said Māori are blocked because they are not acknowledged for the things that they provide. Some attendees expressed concern at the lack of affinity from the Crown for the achievements of Māori institutions. There was widespread agreement amongst hui attendees that the correct history of New Zealand must be instituted within the curriculum and taught in schools. Some participants said the government should consider the benefits of Charter Schools that are working before considering closing them.
- *Foreign ownership* – A few participants said the government should offer locals a chance to purchase land in the region before it is made available for purchase to overseas buyers.
- *Tourism* – One attendee suggested that information centres for tourists in the region's cities and towns (and potentially nationally) would benefit from greater involvement of Māori (e.g. Māori guides at each centre).
- *Fishing industry* – the tuna industry in the North has a lot of potential – it could be huge.
- *Health* – Marae should be empowered and funded to take care of unwell people (particularly people with mental health issues). The only way government and Māori will resolve issues facing Māori is to sit down and talk with each other. Improving the mental health of Māori should be high on the government's agenda.
- *Support for Māori* – Some hui participants suggested the Crown consider what support it can provide to marae. One speaker suggested the government could consider supporting insurance for Marae to assist people to protect their turangawaewae (and further noted that insurance is expensive). The Crown should assist Māori to move forward to develop own resources.
- *Te Reo* – The Crown should protect te reo and encourage its use by public servants and all New Zealanders.

The Crown's intent

- *The Crown/Māori Relations pamphlet* – One participant stated that the pamphlet circulated at the hui (<https://justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/CMR-English-WEB-16-MARCH.pdf>) probably sets out the best way forward. One attendee expressed the view that no government is going to “resolve Māori” and that Māori will need to do that. One speaker said his hapū never want a settlement and we want government to believe this.
- *Te Tiriti* – One speaker said New Zealand must transition from the English to the Māori text of Te Tiriti – the ‘3 Ps’ language needs to change. Many participants expressed the strong view that the Crown must honour He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti.
- *Māori Sovereignty* - There was widespread support for the suggestion that the Crown must accept the findings of the Wai 1040 Tribunal report. One participant considered that if the Crown openly acknowledged Māori sovereignty it would lift the status of Māori in the eyes of the public as well.

- *Government funding targeted at Māori* – One speaker expressed disappointment at the Minister of Finance’s statement that there would be no race-based funding (without any consideration of whether that would be the best way to address a particular situation).

Ngā uara: Values

- *Relationship* – Many participants said the Crown/Māori relationship must be based on He Whakaputanga and should also be based on equity, not partnership. The Crown should be consistent, coherent and accessible. The Crown should acknowledge that it holds all the cards in the Crown/Māori relationship.
- *Values* – Some of the values hui participants suggested should underpin the Crown/Māori relationship were trust, honesty, integrity, respect and independence.
- *Biculturalism* – Some hui participants expressed a desire to see Pākehā move comfortably in Te Ao Māori.
- *Partnership* – There was widespread agreement that partnership should be a cornerstone value for the Crown/Māori relationship – one based on equality, trust, respect and interdependence. One participant noted that ‘one size does not fit all’. One speaker asked the question of how the Treaty partners can engage in meaningful conversation in a relationship that is not based on wanting something from each other?
- *Justice* – One participant expressed the view that we should set the first principle for this kaupapa as justice and that the second principle should be to build unity at all levels.

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

- *Engaging shouldn’t require a Treaty settlement* – Some speakers said the Crown shouldn’t wait for a Treaty settlement before it engages properly with Māori. Another participant said the Crown should recognise the rangatiratanga of hapū.
- *Engage young people* – One speaker said ‘our young people suffer - poverty, homelessness, drugs problems’. We need to find new ways to engage with the Crown. Can't forget where we came from. We have had to build the bridges.
- *Iwi Chairs* – Some participants reminded the Minister to remember that the Iwi Chairs Forum do not represent everybody.
- *Legislation for Māori representation* – A few speakers said the Crown should legislate Māori seats in local government and for statutory boards. Many speakers said it is not right for the government to pass laws without the consent of Māori. One attendee thought all Māori should be encouraged to enrol on Māori Electoral Roll and participate fully in elections.
- *Engaging non-Māori too* - Pākehā buy-in to building the relationship is important. How do we do that?
- *Ensuring all can participate* - The Crown should engage Māori who otherwise would not have a voice in the Crown/Māori relationship.
- *Accessibility* – Hui participants said the Crown should go and talk to people in the regions. Some expressed concern that Ministers do not always take feedback or suggestions on board.
- *Don’t stifle engagement with bureaucracy* – The relationship should not be hampered by administration and paperwork demands.

Possible Crown/Māori Relations Priorities

- *Ngāpuhi settlement* – Many participants shared the view that a meaningful and full Ngāpuhi settlement must be a number 1 priority. Some went further to say that a Ngāpuhi settlement should not be influenced by earlier settlements and hapū should not be ignored in the process. One speaker expressed a desire for restorative economic development in Northland.
- *Constitutional transformation* – Highlight constitutional transformation must put Te Tiriti at the centre. Within the constitution put our environment first, human rights second and democratic institutions third. Constitutional change must be based on He Whakaputanga. The Minister should work with his colleagues to reach the Pākehā community to foster bi-culturalism. Te Tiriti should be enforceable and Waitangi Tribunal recommendations binding.
- *Water* - ownership is a misnomer. You can't financialise the essentials of life. The question is who has access, use and control of water.
- *Addressing institutional racism* – The relationship has always been a hegemonic one but Te Tiriti does not allow a hegemonic relationship. The Crown should establish a Tiriti Commission.
- *Resourcing for Crown/Māori relationship* – Tautoko the recognition that Crown/Māori Relations needs strengthening. What is the resourcing for this? Where does the portfolio sit? How does the Minister's department work across government? Recommend the government establish a Ministry.
- *Raising living standards* – The government should institute a living standards framework. One attendee indicated that the Treasury's draft framework did not go far enough in recognising whanau and hapū.
- *Promoting Māori* - The government needs to promote Māori products (i.e. tourism).

Actions:

- 6 written submissions tabled and have been entered into the Ministry of Justice submissions database.