

Date of hui: 12 April 2018
Venue: Minister's Office, 7.2 Beehive
Attendees: Minister for Crown/Māori Relations, Hon Kelvin Davis
Senior Ministerial Advisor to Hon Kelvin Davis, Debra Mahuta-Coyle
Minister for Crown/Māori Relations, Tihema Baker Private Secretary
Private Secretary, Associate Minister for Crown/Māori Relations, Nancy Watters
Lil Anderson, Deputy Secretary, Crown/Māori Relations, Ministry of Justice

Federation of Māori Authorities

Tracey Houpapa, Chair
Liz Mellish, Deputy Chair
Rātahi Cross, Board member
Anaru Smiler, Acting Chief Operations Officer

Government officials: Te Rau Kupenga, Crown Facilitator
Benesia Smith, Specialist Advisor, Crown/Māori Relations Unit, Ministry of Justice
Hollie Smith, Specialist Advisor, Crown/Māori Relations Unit, Ministry of Justice

These notes represent a broad overview of the key points raised by participants at the hui.

Introductory Comments

- FOMA appreciate being invited to be part of the early engagement process. FOMA is encouraged that this process is the start of helping shape the Crown/Māori Relations portfolio strategy and its priorities. It's a good initiative to ask Māori to be part of the early thinking. This hasn't happened before and it's nice to see this government developing a new way of operating. FOMA is keen to play an active role in the Crown/Māori relationship.
- FOMA expects to be engaged with and considers that the best contribution will be through identified involvement in the co-design of the strategic process and outcomes, including subsequent policy.
- FOMA is seeking clarity that it is recognised as a key partner with the Crown so as to avoid wasting both parties time.
- FOMA has a shared interest to grow the Māori economy.
- FOMA represents significant Māori business leadership in Aotearoa.
- FOMA has a record of providing quality and timely advice to the Crown – want to see this continued under the new regime.

Main issues and opportunities raised

Value Māori as co-designers

- Māori need to be at the table at the design stage – collaborating and co-designing in strategy, policy and operations design.

FOMA – strategic partner that adds considerable value to government policy and service design

- Value and engage FOMA from the design stage. Former Crown engagement has sought FOMA support at crisis point only.
- Māori Trusts and incorporations success is significant and has previously been undervalued, underutilised, and/or unknown.
- Māori trusts and incorporations are working around Crown and government agencies due to the difficulty to engage, work together, and/or their stories are known on a need to know basis (market to market, or country to country) that by-passes government as irrelevant (Trusts and incorporations sectors include urban development, power/energy, agriculture, horticulture).

Changing the narrative, growing informed demand (Māori and Crown)

- Move the conversation across all sectors from volume to value, understand that the market approach for consumers is to deliver the “great back story”, which Māori are part of.
- Commercialise and add value to the conversations to shape Aotearoa as an emerging nation.
- Māori tend to pursue business in areas that do not change – leveraging of people, land, and the environment.
- There is a growing group of Māori that are keen to sell their land - an unintended outcome of disconnect to tribal lands, the difficulty of reconnecting, no longer connected or want to be, and challenges on returning to the land.
- Government should look to focus effort into to regional economic development that shows the on the ground connection, contribution, and people. Māori feel divorced from government.
- Change the narrative and take the people too – economic development is not new to Māori or an evil.
- Some businesses have gone offshore to invest, because it's more expensive to do so here even if it is their preference.
- Māori business success is perceived or misunderstood as ‘bad’, poor or undeveloped.
- Continue to focus on building economic foundations - land that Māori derive benefit from has a quadruple bottom line (social, cultural, environmental, economic). Māori understand development with the model having an intergenerational goal (not end goal of sale). Highlight the positive of this model, to New Zealanders demonstrating successful Māori businesses.
- Create the foundation of good economics, to set platform that has education, health etc off it. What is good for the North is business that is owned by them, its profitable, it has a return in employment or profit, and they enjoy it.
- Māori do not have infrastructure costs to transform the opportunity.

Portfolio scope

- The Minister's role is fundamental to growing 'nationhood' – associated with comments on commercialising and adding value to the conversations to shape Aotearoa as an emerging nation.
- Minister's role is important to advise Ministers and Cabinet 'cultural reset'.
- The portfolio demonstrates an ongoing commitment to Māori and to moving the relationship beyond just Treaty settlements.
- Give Māori confidence in the Crown relationship.

Capability and appropriate engagement

- When FOMA invests in substantive strategic and economic measures for direct value add for our regions, local and central government capability needs to respond.
- Officials are not always qualified or most appropriate to engage with FOMA. The transferring of 'leadership concepts' into operation can get lost with officials.
- FOMA and business personnel are specialists and engagement with officials at times has meant upskilling them to appropriately engage for the betterment of the bigger picture.
- The Crown requirement of business expertise from business specialists needs to be reciprocated, equally contribute and invest back into the relationship.
- Māori are working around government due to the difficulty to engage and work together.
- Officials have an understanding or expectation of Māori based on previous policy ideas or experience – this is outdated and they need to skill-up quickly.
- There is a disconnect or incapability to design or anticipate impact for where or how Māori are operating (ie. trusts and incorporations are deterred from social investment (housing) due to the tax).
- Amidst other representative relationships, FOMA see themselves and the Iwi Chairs Forum as two sides of same coin, and that there is always a place for tribal entities to be at the table.

Proposed Crown/Māori Relations Priorities

- Strategically important that Māori remain global traders - the current conditions provide for business or beneficiaries, no in-between.
- Support for post-settlement investment (phases of settlement is generational: grievance, settlement, investment).
- For Māori business, the top five areas to leverage Māori economy is around land, kiwifruit, avocado, red meat, and tourism. The Crown needs to support this.

Agreed Actions:

1. FOMA offer to support in terms of engaging with their constituency to encourage attendance at regional hui.
2. Draft notes to be reviewed by FOMA before the Ministry of Justice publicly post online.
3. Minister and officials agree to formally engage with FOMA on a more regular basis on economic and environmental development issues.