

Date of hui:	13 March 2018
Venue:	Minister’s Office, 7.2 Beehive
Attendees:	Minister for Crown/Māori Relations, Hon Kelvin Davis Senior Ministerial Advisor to Hon Kelvin Davis, Deborah Mahuta-Coyle Private Secretary, Minister for Crown/Māori Relations, Tihema Baker Private Secretary, Associate Minister for Crown/Māori Relations, Nancy Watters Lil Anderson, Deputy Secretary, Crown/Māori Relations, Ministry of Justice Te Rau Kupenga, Crown Facilitator Local Government New Zealand <i>Members of the National Council</i> President Dave Cull Mayor Brian Hanna Councillor Bonita Bigham Mayor Justin Lester Mayor Jan Barnes Mayor Don Cameron Mayor Wayne Guppy <i>Members of Te Maruata (LGNZ Māori Advisory Board)</i> Councillor Tipa Mahuta Councillor Iaen Cranwell Gina Mohi, Te Arawa representative to Rotorua Lakes Council; and Councillor Josh Wharehinga <i>Members of LGNZ’s Executive</i> Malcolm Alexander, Chief Executive Dr Mike Reid, Principal Policy Advisor
Government officials:	Benesia Smith, Specialist Advisor, Crown/Māori Relations Unit, Ministry of Justice Tia Warbrick, Specialist Advisor, Crown/Māori Relations Unit, Ministry of Justice Justine Smith, Partnerships Director, Central/Local Government Partnerships Group, Department of Internal Affairs

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

Main issues and opportunities raised

- *Engaging with Māori* – as more and more settlements occur, the focus changes to forward looking and there is an increased focus on interaction with iwi. LGNZ has refreshed the role and function of Te Maruata (its’ Māori advisory board) and a representative of Te Maruata now is an ex office member of LGNZ’s National Council. At recent meetings with members it is clear that some areas of local government do not feel adept at engaging with Māori. Three key areas for local government in terms of Māori engagement were identified as being:

- desire to change the requirement for a referendum to create a Māori ward and bring the rules into line with the creation of all other types of representative arrangements (overseen by the Local Government Commission);
 - local government bearing the ongoing costs of implementing Treaty settlement redress negotiated between the Crown and iwi; and
 - the need for local government and iwi to work together on community/social and economic opportunities.
- *Māori Representation/Requirement for Referendum to Create a Māori Ward* - initially raised in relation to Ngāi Tahu's two seats on Environment Canterbury which ends in 2019. View that regional councils should have Māori representation as a matter of right as they are dealing with issues of kaitiakitanga over natural resources. Environment Canterbury decided not to pursue a Māori ward as the referendum will generate negativity within the community but acknowledged it will be a backward step if mana whenua are not represented. Equally there was recognition that some communities are challenged by the suggestion that Māori should be there as of right. The desire to see better Māori representation but aversion to undertake a referendum was reiterated by LGNZ members.
 - *Māori Representation and Participation in Local Government Generally* – a concern was expressed that the low Māori participation, voting and representation in local government reflects that local governance is seen as not relevant to some Māori communities.
 - *Processing of Resource Consents* – the volume and complexity of resource consents is impacting on both local government and iwi. Iwi are incentivised to review all consents but tend to be constrained by internal capacity making it difficult to meet statutory deadlines. This issue was raised by LGNZ members and is clearly a pressure point. Specific reference was made to waste water and water resource consents. The focus/energy/time being spent on these kinds of matters is impacting on the ability to have strategic conversations.
 - *Provincial Growth Fund* – The government is putting emphasis on local government partnering with Māori on PGF proposals, however an observation was made that some iwi will need longer than the pace being set given the iwi capacity issues already noted. Some risk to the PGF not meeting certain key objectives due to the timeframes.

Looking forward, most important issues for the Crown/Māori relationship

- *Iwi Internal Capacity and Capability* - iwi are having to rely on a small pool of leaders to represent them in multiple fora – they are stretched and having to move between operational and governance. Iwi members shared their experience of councils contacting iwi frequently to get advice on “everything Māori”. Iwi are not able to and should not be in a position of servicing the cultural needs of local authorities.
- *Local Government as Treaty Partners* – local government and iwi see themselves as being in a Treaty partnership. The Crown/Māori relationship continues with and extends to local government. Some reference made to the perception of central government “passing the buck” to local government who are then required to implement decisions they were not party to. A desire expressed to see central and local government working closer together on matters that will impact on (and have financial implications for) local government.

- *Working in “Partnership”* – The observation was made that when and how local authorities engage with iwi is still determined by one party. A desire to be having a “plan to plan” conversation rather than the ‘what do you think about what we might have in a plan’ conversation which will require investment in iwi to support this. There is some way to go before local government and iwi are operating in true partnership.
- *The Nature of the Conversation between Local Government and Iwi* – an aspiration for the leadership is that they have values-based strategic conversations about both the economic and social/cultural spheres. Māori have broad aspirations for their communities and want to be engaged with on all aspects of place making, regional development and community shaping - not just perceived “Māori issues”. The conversation and focus needs to be broader than regulatory. Understanding iwi aspirations alongside local government aspirations will assist the partnership to grow.
- *Understanding Culture* – culture is not just a values discussion. The Māori worldview is broader than just values. Values define how the discussion might occur, but having an understanding of the broader Māori worldview will assist to understand rationale for outcomes.

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

- *Broader than Iwi* – discussions on the Crown/Māori relationship needs to be wider than economic and regulatory conversations and conscious of the landscape and current issues for Māori - broader than iwi. For example, if you’re wanting to discuss Māori land issues – talk to landowners directly.

Crown/Māori Relations Priorities

- *Impact of Political Cycle on Relationships and Processes* – good relationships and processes can be tenuous when not supported by or embedded in legislation. This is exacerbated by democratic turnover within local government (ie. electoral cycle) which can limit the ability to build and maintain enduring, meaningful relationships.
- *Local Government Internal Cultural Capability and Capacity* – local government to build tikanga and te reo Māori capability and capacity within their organisations. It was requested that nationally consistent frameworks and guidelines are developed to help local government become more adept, though will need to be flexible and able to be tailored given significant differences in the profiles of local authorities.
- *Funding* – consistent message of insufficient funding for both iwi and local government to both meet day to day operational requirements and implement Treaty settlement redress. A report on this matter has been produced by LGNZ and forwarded to the Ministers of Local Government and Treaty of Waitangi Settlements.
- *Concluding Treaty Settlements* – there is a desire to see settlements concluded. Uncompleted settlements are “holding up our communities”.
- *Re-Instatement of the Four Well-Beings (social, cultural, economic, environmental) as part of the purpose of local government* – this was widely endorsed by LGNZ members. The four well-beings allow local government to be operating in the space that reflects the issues and concerns in their communities (e.g., poverty, community, social and cultural issues) and reflects their place-shaping role.
- *Mentoring* – establishing a rangatahi/mayor mentoring programme to develop new leaders and encourage participation by rangatahi in local government.

- *New Citizens* – influencing requirement for new citizens to demonstrate an understanding of tangata whenua and the Crown/Māori relationship to help build an informed New Zealand.

AGREED ACTIONS:

- Distribute notes to Local Government New Zealand for review prior to finalising and uploading to the Crown/Māori Relations website.