

<b>Date of hui:</b>	7 April 2018
<b>Venue:</b>	Kaitaia College, Redan Rd, Kaitaia 0410
	Approx 45 participants Minister for Crown/Māori Relations and officials

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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

- *The Crown/Māori Relationship* - There should be opportunities for hapū engagement (not just iwi level).
- *Treaty Settlements* – Speakers expressed the view that Treaty settlements must be implemented properly and Crown commitments in them upheld. The rating of land returned in Treaty settlements was raised as an issue – concern was expressed that there are different policies between regional and district councils. Implementation of the Te Hiku Social Accord could be improved – one speaker said it is a good document but it requires sustained effort by all signatories to work. Participants expressed the strong view that existing Treaty settlements should not be diluted (e.g. the 1992 fisheries settlement and the Kermadecs proposal, agencies not understanding their obligations)
- *Enabling Māori* – Māori should be enabled to implement their own solutions to issues affecting their whānau. Hui participants expressed the view that Māori are resource rich, but that they need support to realise their potential. Enabling greater decision making at hapū level (e.g. through the RMA). The hui heard strongly from participants that whānau/hapū don't want to just participate in decision making processes, they want to make decisions.
- *Local Government* – Attendees spoke about the lack of Māori representation and involvement in decision-making in local government. Some expressed a desire for Māori representation in local government to be increased. Some hui attendees thought that representation at local, regional and national level would give Māori greater opportunities to be part of decision-making.
- *Central Government Agencies* – Hui participants considered the Crown and Māori have an opportunity to dismantle institutional racism. Creating multiple pathways for engagement between the Crown and Māori would create a better relationship. One speaker said that Crown agencies must stop operating in silos if they are to work effectively with Māori. Some speakers thought that policy settings at the national level were not reaching people in the regions and that Māori sometimes had difficulty “cutting through” government agencies, each of which have their own rules.

- *Te Tiriti and He Whakaputanga* – The hui considered that the lack of certainty about the place of Te Tiriti and He Whakaputanga in the Constitution was an issue of concern, and that a renewed focus on the Crown/Māori Relations provided an opportunity to address the matter properly.
- *Education* – Some speakers considered it important to raise public awareness of New Zealand history. Particular mention was made of the education system in fostering the leaders of tomorrow – and that a good education and a fair justice system were important in creating strong leaders. The hui also heard that there is a need to educate immigrants on the importance of Te Tiriti to New Zealand.

### **The Crown’s intent**

- *Te Tiriti* – Some hui participants considered Te Tiriti sits above the constitution. There was widespread agreement that the early covenants entered into by the Crown and Māori (Te Tiriti and Te Whakaputanga) are still alive.
- *Vision* - The Crown’s intent should be to empower, enable and engage with Māori. The hui was told by one speaker that the vision of some hapū is to not have a relationship with the Crown.
- *Decolonise* – Some whānau are cynical the creation of the Crown/Māori Relations portfolio is another tool for colonisation.

### **Ngā uara: Values**

- *Need firm values* – The values in the draft pamphlet are fluffy – we need words that will build something lasting.
- *Partnership a concern* – One speaker agreed with all values set out in the pamphlet circulated at the hui (<https://justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/CMR-English-WEB-16-MARCH.pdf>) except partnership.

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

- *Government* – A couple of speakers were concerned that some Ministerial posts significant to Māori sit outside Cabinet
- *Multiple pathways* – There should be multiple pathways for engagement between Māori and the Crown. Regular engagement would help Crown/Māori engagement (“keep coming back to the people”). Some speakers stated their view that the Iwi Chairs Forum does not speak for everybody.
- *Kanohi ki te kanohi* – at marae and in communities.
- *Use existing expertise* – Some speakers considered it will be important to link people with expertise to communities to help them do policy, access funding and develop solutions.
- *Recognise tangata whenua* - Māori cannot be classed as “another sector group”. Some speakers said the Crown should enable Māori communities to craft solutions and support themselves long-term (not year by year). One speaker said whānau/hapū/iwi relationships are the most important relationships to build – before the relationship with tauwiwi.
- *Constitutional settings need correction* – The Crown/Māori Relations should have the right standing (e.g. constitutional and legal partnership).

- *Engage non-Māori* – Pākehā should be engaged in this conversation too
- *More than a funding relationship* – Treat the relationship as more than one of the provision of funding. Piecemeal contracts (year by year) do not encourage good long-term outcomes

### **Possible Crown/Māori Relations Priorities**

- *Water* – One speaker expressed the view that Māori, as the first nations people, own water and the government should focus future discussions on that basis.
- *Constitutional settings* – Rebuilding the relationship started in 1840 would require the Crown to strengthen its relationship with whānau, hapū and iwi. Strengthening the constitutional importance of Te Tiriti (e.g. through legislation) would avoid changes in the Crown intent for the relationship between successive governments. He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti need to be woven in to the fabric of constitution.
- *Partnership* – Some hui participants expressed a desire for the Crown to make Māori a real partner. Build Māori capability to be a full partner. One participant expressed this as “Te iwi Māori first, then once strong, we can take on the world”. More mana motuhake.
- *Whenua* – Enable Māori to look after their own whenua (continue review of Te Ture Whenua Māori, Local Government Act), including to protect it from international ownership
- *Education* – supporting communities to be in control of the affairs that impact on their lives. Looking after our tamariki – education and justice system. Work to remove unconscious bias from teachers and government employees. Getting young people into apprenticeships and work. Early Childhood Education for tamariki should be a priority.
- *Protecting taonga* - Protection of taonga, e.g. the Crown should not trademark manuka honey
- *Legislation* - Review Māori Community Development Act 1962
- *Implement Treaty settlements properly* – Education of Crown agencies on their Treaty settlement obligations so people don’t have to battle to engage and get support for new initiatives
- *Wai 262 report* – Some hui participants said the Crown should address the findings of the Waitangi Tribunal’s Wai 262 report.
- *Dealing with drug addiction* - People need assistance from the government to deal with drug problem (particularly spiralling meth use).
- *Poverty* – Some speakers supported the government’s focus on reducing poverty – expressed by one speaker as “You get rid of pōhara (poverty) and you get rid of abuse”.
- *Regional Economic development* – One speaker suggested that Northland should be a “special economic zone”.
- *Better support for tāne* – One speaker expressed a desire for more targeted support for men to deal with mental health and behavioural issues – “they are the ones going to jail”.