

Taihape Inquiry District:

**Local Government, Rating and Native Township
Scoping Report**

A Report Commissioned by the Crown Forestry Rental Trust

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1. Introduction

The Local Government, Rating and Native Townships Scoping Report is part of the set of agreed research projects approved by the Waitangi Tribunal in December 2010 for the Taihape Inquiry District. It has been contracted by Crown Forestry Rental Trust as an appraisal scoping project to assess the feasibility of further research for Stage II of the inquiry district research programme.

Crown Forestry Rental Trust has contracted this project for four weeks (160 hours) research. This progress report is submitted after three weeks work on research and writing. The purpose of the progress report is to provide an indication of the sources and issues identified to date which can be used as a basis of discussion for consultation hui before the final scoping report is submitted.

1.1 Project Brief

There are three distinct aspects to this scoping project: local government; rating, and Potaka Native Township. They have been combined into one project following the recommendation of the Waitangi Tribunal Unit. The ‘Taihape Inquiry Research Programme Memorandum’ defined the purpose and focus of this project as:

The local government focus will be on the effectiveness over time of the local political forms of organisation on offer for Taihape Maori. Coupled with the issue of rating, and in particular Utiku/Potaka native township development, the research will assist the inquiry to consider whether local government impeded or assisted Taihape Maori to develop their capabilities and with what effect.¹

There are three components to this scoping report in the project brief:

1. identify *issues* relevant to Local Government, Rating and Native Townships in the Taihape inquiry;

¹ Waitangi Tribunal Unit, ‘Wai 2180 Taihape Inquiry Research Programme’, May 2011, Wai 2180 6.2.17, p. 9.

2. identify and assess *primary and secondary sources* relating to Local Government, Rating and Native Townships in the Taihape inquiry;
3. make *recommendations* on the feasibility, scope, extent and resourcing of any further research required, in particular:
 - whether a separate substantive report is required
 - alternatively whether the topic can be dealt with by other casebook research reports
 - the approach and methodology best suited to this research for the Taihape inquiry
 - resourcing, including human resources, and timeframes to complete any required substantive research.

As part of the research for this project, Heather Bassett attended an Introductory Hui in Taihape co-ordinated by Crown Forestry Rental Trust on 25 October 2011. This was followed by separate meetings with the Mokai Patea Waitangi Claims Trust at Moawhango, and with the Ngati Hinemanu – Ngati Paki Heritage Trust at Winiata Marae. More extended meetings were held with the Mokai Patea and Ngati Hinemanu-Ngati Paki groups in November 2011, where this project was discussed along with the Rangitikei Rivers and the Environmental and Resource Management scoping research teams. A progress report which contained preliminary recommendations was submitted in December 2011. Crown Forestry Rental Trust arranged a hui in Taihape to discuss the preliminary recommendations at the end of January 2012. A conference call was also held with members of the Mokai Patea Waitangi Claims Trust to discuss the contents of the progress report and to seek their opinions on the recommendations. The short time allowed for this project meant that there were limited opportunities for meeting with claimant groups. If the recommended research projects are undertaken claimant consultation will be a key factor to ensure that important issues are properly covered. .

1.2 Project Overlaps and Limitations

There are at least three other research projects in the Taihape Inquiry Research Programme which overlap with the Local Government, Rating and Native Townships Scoping Project:

1. Rangitikei River and its Tributaries (scoping research by David Alexander) - this project will be dealing with many resource management issues relating to the awa in the district,

and covering the way local authorities have interacted with Maori communities and concerns about river management. It will also be covering the Erewhon Water Scheme, which involved local government and rating issues.

2. Environmental Impacts and Resource Management (scoping research by Massey University) - this project includes an examination of the extent Maori have been able to participate at a local government level in environmental management, and the extent to which local bodies have recognised the interests of tangata whenua as kaitiaki for the natural environment. It will be looking at how the Resource Management Act 1991 has been implemented in the inquiry district regarding land and other natural resources (excluding waterways).

The overlap with the Rangitikei River and the Environmental and Resource Management projects was quickly recognised by the research teams involved, and we have endeavoured to work together and share information to co-ordinate research and avoid unnecessary duplication. We also held joint research hui with claimant cluster groups. The recommendations arising from all three scoping projects will need to be considered together to ensure they are consistent in recommending how overlapping issues should be covered. As will be seen in the recommendations, it was generally agreed that resource management issues and the relationship between tangata whenua and local councils since the Resource Management Act 1991 will be dealt with most appropriately in the Rangitikei River and Environmental Impacts and Resource Management projects, rather than in a separate local government report.

3. Block Histories (Northern and Central by Historyworks, Southern by Terry Hearn) - the central block history project includes Utiku/Potaka Native Township in its project brief. We have discussed the overlap with Historyworks, who have indicated the block history of the township will be limited to basic title and land alienation data, and that general administration and history of the township would be examined by this project (and subsequent research if commissioned). In general there is likely to be overlap with all the block history projects regarding rating issues. As will be discussed, our preliminary research has revealed the Aotea Maori Land Board played a role in the collection of rates, particularly for leased blocks, and sometimes assisted owners seeking rates remissions. Until the block histories are completed, it is difficult to assess the extent to which they

will make use of Maori Land Board alienation files and how detailed coverage of rate charges will be.

The timing of the research programme means that the recommendations in this scoping project are being made before other related scoping reports are submitted and the stage one research has been completed. This means that the recommendations have been made without confirmation of how well these topics might be covered in other research projects. Crown Forestry Rental Trust, the Waitangi Tribunal, and claimant groups may need to consider this scoping report's recommendations in light of the recommendations and outcomes of other research projects before acting to implement our recommendations.

The time allowed for the scoping research project was 160 hours. Within that timeframe, five days were used to meet with claimant groups to ascertain their key issues and possible case studies. As a result there has only been three weeks available to identify sources, research the issues, and write the scoping report. This has meant that the focus has necessarily been on identifying and locating possible sources, with little opportunity to review many of the records. There also has not been time to write detailed discussions of the issues involved, such as might be included in a longer scoping project.

2. Local Government Issues in the Taihape Inquiry District

2.1 Summary of Issues and Sources

The Statements of Claim from the Taihape Inquiry District do not make specific reference to local government issues. However, the Technical Research Scoping report identified issues shared by the more general statements of claim, which include:

- The ability of hapu and iwi to retain, maintain, and exercise te tino rangatiratanga;
- Loss of hapu and iwi authority to the Crown, Crown agencies and local government.²

The issues relating to local government in the project brief fit within the general context of hapu and iwi authority and participation in local government.

A Waitangi Tribunal Unit research discussion paper issued in September 2010 acknowledged the overlap between this project and issues of land and resource use, and environment concerns. The Tribunal stated that *‘the local government focus here would be more on the effectiveness over time of the local political forms of organisation on offer for Taihape Maori.’*³

One of the key tasks for the scoping research was to identify which local authorities have operated within the Taihape Inquiry District since 1870. Local government in the Taihape region started with the Rangitikei Highways Board in 1872. However, at this time, while the Taihape district was largely still in Maori ownership, it had little impact in the district. In 1877 Rangitikei County Council was established, but it was not until the large scale purchasing of the Taihape inquiry blocks in the 1890s that council authority really extended beyond Hunterville. There were many boundary adjustments over the years, but by 1977 Rangitikei County took in land between the Rangitikei River and up the coast to Turakina,

² Bruce Stirling and Evald Subasic, ‘Taihape: Rangitikei ki Rangipo Inquiry District: Technical Research Scoping Report’, CFRT, August, 2010, p. 7.

³ Waitangi Tribunal Unit, ‘Research Discussion Paper for the Taihape District Inquiry (Wai 2180)’, September 2010, Wai 2180 6.2.12, p. 21.

and extended inland to north of Waiouru.⁴ In 1989 the county council became the Rangitikei District Council.

Other local authorities which operated within the Rangitikei County include the Hunterville Town Board which was formed 1905. In 1975 it became a Community Council Town under the Rangitikei County Council. The Taihape Borough Council was formed in 1906.

While Rangitikei County Council included most of the Taihape Inquiry District, the Rangitikei River up to near Mangaweka was the eastern boundary of Rangitikei County (and District). On the eastern side of the river was the Kiwitea County Council. It was established in 1894 from the Kiwitea County Road Board and part of Oroua County Council. In 1989 it was amalgamated with Manawatu District Council. The Taihape District Maori Land Court blocks which lay within Kiwitea County were Otamakapua, Mangoira, parts of Awarua 1, and the Waitapu block. Most of these areas were alienated from Maori ownership in the late nineteenth century, which left only relatively small areas of Maori land in the Ruahine Ranges (parts of Awarua 10 and the Otamakapua blocks).

As well as local councils, there were other special purpose local agencies operating within the district including:

Hunterville Rabbit Board 1925

Rangitikei Catchment Board 1944

Ruahine Rabbit Board, subsequently the Ruahine Pest Destruction Board

In 1990 these and other agencies were amalgamated into the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council, which is now known as Horizons Regional Council.

Since the restructuring of local government in 1989, the following local authorities have jurisdiction within the Taihape Inquiry District:

Rangitikei District Council

Ruapehu District Council

Hastings District Council

Manawatu District Council

Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council (Horizons Regional Council)

Hawke's Bay Regional Council

⁴ S.G. Laurenson, *Rangitikei, the day of striding out*, Palmerston North, 1979.

Figure 2 shows the boundaries of the various current local authorities, and how they fit within the Taihape Inquiry District. It can be seen that the majority of the inquiry district is part of the Rangitikei District Council, and for the purposes of this scoping report, we have concentrated on the records and issues relating to the Rangitikei District Council and its predecessors, and Kiwitea County Council (now part of Manawatu District) in the south-east. Any further research into local government or rating issues would have to identify relevant records and issues from the Ruapehu and Hastings District Councils.

At the regional level the majority of the Taihape Inquiry District falls within the Horizons Regional Council. The Te Koau and Kaweka blocks, and parts of Owahaoko, come under the jurisdiction of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. It was not possible within the time and budget constraints of this project to investigate the Hawke's Bay Regional Council records.

For the period between the 1870s and 1990, initial scoping research into the history and records of the district and regional councils and the various pest destruction boards reveals very little about Maori participation and concerns, apart from the rating of Maori land (see below). Maori are virtually invisible in the local histories, apart from the initial land purchase phase. The record series titles do not reveal particular records regarding Maori or Maori land, apart from rates records. Maori were not elected to the local authorities (until after 1989), and we have not encountered any records relating to Maori deputations etc, apart from those concerning rates. It would appear that after the transfer of the land base from Maori ownership to Crown and private ownership, that political power in the region was also transferred. The local council system replaced Maori rangatira for regional leadership and decision making.

Discussions with the claimant clusters indicate that the historical non-participation of Maori in local government to a large extent still continues today. Over the last two decades, two Maori have been elected to council, but Maori voting rates continue to be low.⁵ According to Mokai Patea representatives there is a widespread perception that Maori do not receive any benefits from local government.⁶ One view expressed was that voting under the ward systems for councilors is not the sort of representation that Maori are interested in, and there was a

⁵ Mokai Patea Waitangi Claims Trust Hui, 22 November 2011.

⁶ See also Tawhai, Veronica M.H., 'Rawaho: In and out of the environmental engagement loop', in Selby, Rachael, Pataka Moore and Malcolm Mulholland (eds), *Maori and the Environment: kaitiaki*, Wellington, 2010.

preference to vote for an iwi representative who was there to represent tangata whenua. This also meant they did not favour the current option of a Maori seat on council, because that was race based, rather than tangata whenua representation.⁷

Although the historical exclusion of Maori from political influence at a local government level may be considered an important issue when the Waitangi Tribunal considers how well hapu and iwi have been able to retain, maintain, and exercise te tino rangatiratanga in the district, we do not consider there are sufficient sources or specific examples to warrant a separate research project into the issue. The proposals for the nineteenth and twentieth century overview reports include the theme of political engagement and autonomy. We recommend that a question relating to local government should be added to that theme, such as ‘the extent to which tangata whenua, at different times and as different iwi and hapu engaged with local government’.

The role of Maori in some aspects of local government was changed by the Resource Management Act 1991, which requires local authorities to:⁸

- recognize and provide for the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu and other taonga (Section 6(e));
- have particular regard to kaitiakitanga (Section 7(a)); and
- take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Section 8).

The Local Government Act 2002 requires local authorities to:

- (a) establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Maori to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority;
- (b) consider ways in which it may foster the development of Maori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority; and
- (c) provide relevant information to Maori for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b).⁹

⁷ Richard Steedman, Personal Communication, 22 November 2011.

⁸ More information about the Resource Management Act and other legislative changes since 1991 can be found in Belgrave et al, ‘Environmental Impact and Resource Management and Wahi Tapu and Portable Taonga draft scoping report’, January 2012, pp. 143-148.

⁹⁹ Tawhai, Veronica M.H., ‘Rawaho: In and out of the environmental engagement loop’, in Selby, Rachael, Pataka Moore and Malcolm Mulholland (eds), *Maori and the Environment: kaitiaki*, Wellington, 2010, p. 79.

As a result there is considerably more information available on the interactions since 1991 between Maori and local councils, and Maori groups within the Taihape Inquiry District have been involved in different forums for consultation with local authorities. As well as involvement with Resource Consent applications on a case by case basis, there have been two key consultative bodies set up within the region: Te Roopu Ahi Kaa (for the Rangitikei District Council) and Nga Pae o Rangitikei (for the Horizons Regional Council).

Te Roopu Ahi Kaa is a standing committee for the Rangitikei District Council which represents the following Maori groups: Ngati Parewahawaha, Ngati Apa, Ngati Hauiti, Ngati Hinemanu – Ngati Paki, Ngati Tamakopiri, Ngati Whitikaupeka, Otaihape Maori Komiti, Ngati Rangi, and the Ratana Community Board.¹⁰ Under a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1998, the functions of Te Roopu Ahi Kaa include:

- (i) To review the relevant processes of Council and make recommendations on steps to be taken to assist Council in carrying out its functions and responsibilities in a bicultural manner taking into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- (ii) To develop draft proposals which recognise the Tangata Whenua of the Rangitikei District's Kaitiakitanga and Rangatiratanga in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (iii) To provide advice and assistance with the Councils' Policies, Bylaws, Rating and Funding, Strategic Plan, Annual Plan and other activity plans (ie. recreation, library, transport, etc).
- (iv) Te Roopu Ahi Kaa will support and assist the Council to discharge its obligations to the Tangata Whenua in relation to procedures and issues that arise under the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (v) To respond on appropriate issues including, but not limited to, notifies resource consent applications where the Council is required to determine issues relating to the management, use, development and protection of the District's physical resources.
- (vi) To ensure appropriate persons are consulted or available to provide such information as may be required from time to time on items of interests to Te Roopu Ahi Kaa and/or the Rangitikei District Council.

¹⁰ 'Memorandum of Understanding between Rangitikei District Council and Nga Iwi o Rangitikei', in Grant Hewison, *Memoranda of Understanding between Maori / Iwi and Local Authorities*, Local Government Monograph Series no 002/01, 2002, pp. 103-112.

(vii) In carrying out (i) to (vii) above, it will ensure that Tangata Whenua groups are consulted, including the arranging of hui when agreed and to keep the Council advised of outcomes or decisions reached.¹¹

Among those who attended the consultation hui with the Mokai Patea Waitangi Claims Trust and the Ngati Hinemanu – Ngati Paki Heritage Trust were some who have served as representatives on Te Roopu Ahi Kaa. Although all agreed it was a vast improvement on the pre-1991 period, there were mixed opinions expressed on how well Te Roopu Ahi Kaa has been able to represent tangata whenua interests. Some felt that the committee had been put in place by the council for the purposes of meeting its obligations (ticking the boxes) under the Resource Management Act 1991 and did not provide for full Maori rangatiratanga in local decision making. However, others with long experience on the committee felt it had provided improved opportunities for Maori to have their concerns heard by the council. However, one representative said that every time new councillors were elected, the committee had to start again with ‘educating’ them about Maori interests and concerns. The council had provided funding for hapu boundary research and to research wahi tapu. One problem was the requirement for tangata whenua groups to form legal entities, such as runanga, to achieve recognition to consultative purposes. Ngati Hinemanu – Ngati Paki felt that those with ahi kaa were not necessarily recognised.¹²

Nga Pae o Rangitikei is a body focused on issues relating to the Rangitikei River and other waterways, and works with the regional council which has responsibility to manage the waterways. One of the Mokai Patea representatives on Nga Pae o Rangitikei, Te Rina Warren, has written an article explaining why the body was formed.¹³ According to Warren, in response to concerns about the degradation of the Rangitikei River, and failings in the resource management process, iwi in the region of the Rangitikei catchment decided to take the initiative by forming their own body to represent iwi concerns and co-ordinate consultation. One of the concerns was that councils did not know who were the appropriate tangata whenua to deal with, tending to consult with larger, more politically active groups: ‘Consultation processes with Maori have historically been a contentious issue for Maori. In

¹¹ ‘Memorandum of Understanding between Rangitikei District Council and Nga Iwi o Rangitikei’, in Grant Hewison, *Memoranda of Understanding between Maori / Iwi and Local Authorities*, Local Government Monograph Series no 002/01, 2002, pp. 108-109.

¹² For further discussion see Belgrave et al, pp. 156-160.

¹³ Warren, Te Rina, ‘Nga Pae o Rangitikei – a model for collective hapu/iwi action?’, in Selby, Rachael, Pataka Moore and Malcolm Mulholland (eds), *Maori and the Environment: kaitiaki*, Wellington, 2010, pp. 185-198.

this regard it was suggested that Nga Pae o Rangitikei could act as a vehicle to inform external agencies of the proper consultation processes that concerned the Rangitikei River catchment'.¹⁴ Warren's article does not look at how well the body has operated to meet Maori interests, but did note that it struggled with a lack of resources and support. Again, there was mixed feedback from the claimant cluster groups about Nga Pae o Rangitikei. It seems that the level of activity and engagement in the district has decreased in recent years, but representatives reported that the Regional Council is supporting the committee, and it is currently involved in the district planning process.¹⁵

As noted in the introduction, Maori participation in local government processes since 1991 overlaps with the scope of the Rangitikei River and Environmental and Resource Management Projects. During the claimant cluster hui, the issues raised concerning local government were quite focused on the resource management process and environmental concerns about both the land and waterways. It may be that other claimant groups have different issues to bring to attention in response to this scoping report. We feel strongly that it would be more appropriate for research into how well Maori interests have been taken into account by local government since 1991 to be part of any Stage II environmental and rivers research projects. Questions regarding how well local bodies have met their obligations under the Resource Management Act cannot be considered in isolation from the specific case studies regarding the river, and resource management applications.

The sources consulted and identified relating to the history of local government in the district, and tangata whenua forums for participation are listed in the Bibliography. As we are not recommending a separate research report on local government issues it is not necessary at this stage to comment on the principle record groups.

Further detail about the archives of the district and regional councils, and the location of the records of predecessor agencies can be found in the rating section where they are of more relevance.

2.2 Stage II Research Recommendations

¹⁴ Warren, Te Rina, 'Nga Pae o Rangitikei – a model for collective hapu/iwi action?', in Selby, Rachael, Pataka Moore and Malcolm Mulholland (eds), *Maori and the Environment: kaitiaki*, Wellington, 2010, p. 192.

¹⁵ Mokai Patea Waitangi Claims Trust, 22 October 2011.

The research undertaken for this scoping project has identified some aspects of the relationship between tangata whenua in the Taihape District and local government agencies which warrant further research. However, the nature of the issues, and the source material available have led to the conclusion that they would be best dealt with in other Stage II research projects, and that there should not be a separate report on local government issues.

Instead, we recommend that local government issues should be dealt as follows:

Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Overview Reports – should include research and discussion of general political issues around opportunities for tangata whenua participation in local government and local decision making. The following issues could be included in the respective project briefs:

- the extent to which tangata whenua, at different times and as different iwi and hapu engaged with local government in local politics and decision making,

Rangitikei River and Taihape Waterways Report – should examine the interaction between local government agencies responsible for waterways and tangata whenua in the Taihape district. The form and scope of the river research project is still to be decided, but the following issues should be considered for inclusion in the project brief:

- what representation have tangata whenua had on local agencies responsible for the control and management of the Rangitikei River and other Taihape waterways?
- have tangata whenua views on management of the waterways been heard?
- any limiting factors on Maori involvement or engagement with local government agencies responsible for waterways
- the impact of the Resource Management Act on tangata whenua ability to engage meaningfully with local government agencies responsible for waterways
- the formation of Nga Pae o Rangitikei, and the extent to which it was been able to participate in planning and decision making regarding Taihape waterways
- the current situation between tangata whenua and the regional councils, and the extent to which regional councils are an effective vehicle for the recognition of Maori interests regarding waterways
- negotiations concerning the Erewhon Water Scheme should be examined as a case study.

The waterway related research should make use of both official written records and interviews or hui with Maori who have been involved with Nga Pae o Rangitikei.

Environmental (non-waterway) and Resource Management - implementation of the Resource Management Act 1991 by local authorities should be included in a Stage II Environmental and Resource Management research project. This would include issues such as:

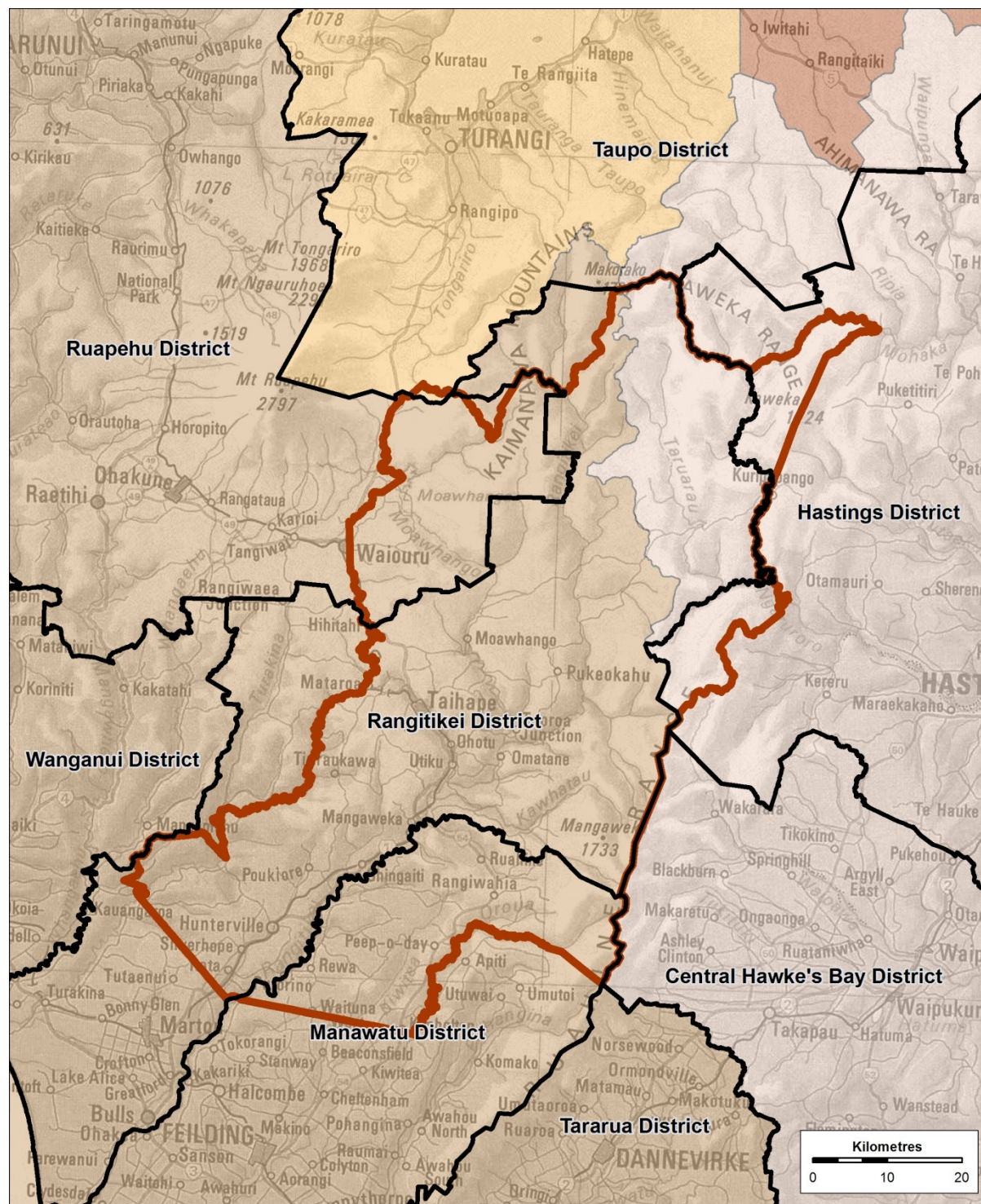
- the impact of the Resource Management Act 1991 (and related legislation) on the ability of tangata whenua in the Taihape district to participate in local government planning and decision making (excluding waterway issues)
- any assistance or limitations on tangata whenua ability to exercise kaitiakitanga in the Taihape district
- any concerns, complaints or issues with the exercise of local government powers under the Resource Management Act 1991, including case studies

This recommendation is in line with the recommendation made in the Environmental Impacts and Resource Management draft Scoping Report that priority should be placed on 'Iwi relationships with the Crown, local government, SOEs and private companies and individuals as a consequence of the Crown's developing regimes for resource management and environmental protection, including the protection of wahi tapu, from 1970 to the present'.¹⁶ We support that recommendation, and consider such a report would be the most appropriate way to examine the issues raised concerning local government and tangata whenua.

These recommendations were supported by clustered claimants who provided feedback on during and after the Crown Forestry Rental Trust hui in January.

¹⁶ Belgrave et al, pp. 192-194.

Figure 2: Local Government Authority Current Boundary Map



Local Government Authority Boundary Map

Legend

- Taihape Inquiry District Boundary
- Territorial Authority Boundary

Local Government Authority Boundary

- Bay of Plenty Region
- Hawke's Bay Region
- Manawatu-Wanganui Region
- Waikato Region



Local Government boundary data and
Topo Raster imagery sourced from
Land Information New Zealand.
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Scale 1:650,000 at A4

3. Rating of Maori Land in the Taihape Inquiry District

3.1 Summary of Issues

The research discussion papers prepared by the Waitangi Tribunal, and the project brief for this scoping report include a number of generic issues relating to Crown policy and legislation regarding the rating of Maori land. The generic history of the legislation and nationwide policies governing Maori land rating has already been well covered by research prepared for other Waitangi Tribunal Inquiry districts, and for recent local government reviews. The Waitangi Tribunal itself has considered the impact of rates on Maori land and Maori communities in reports on other inquiry districts. The relevant chapters of the *Turanga Tangata*, *Turanga Whenua*, *Wairarapa ki Tararua Report*, and the *Tauranga Moana 1886-2006* report provide not only useful findings, but also give comprehensive rundowns of the history of Maori land rating, and main issues. The secondary sources listed in the Bibliography mean that no further primary research is required into the legislation, policy and general impact of rates on Maori. Any further research for the Taihape Inquiry District should rely on the existing sources for general background information.

Discussion with claimants at the introduction and consultation hui reflected a general view that Maori in the Taihape district received little or no benefit from rating, and that the valuation of Maori land did not take into account its [in]ability to generate income, or that Maori land could not easily be sold. Ngati Hinemanu-Ngati Paki representatives felt that while it has been possible to negotiate some rates exemptions, the possibility of rates charges being levied is seen as a threat which influences owners to agree to leasing or resource consent applications. One example is the Erewhon Water Scheme, where overdue rate charges were raised during the negotiations for water rights and easements.¹⁷ Claimants also raised examples of Awarua lands which were sold to pay rates. The issue most commonly raised in discussions about local government and rating was the situation of landlocked blocks. This is discussed separately below.

¹⁷ RDC 9 1.15:17:1, Erewhon Rural Water Scheme: "On Farm" Works 1978 to 1987, Newsletters, Maori Land Negotiations and Water Rights and Special Orders, 1978-87, Rangitikei District Council.

The key task for this scoping report has been to consider the impact of rates specifically on Maori land and hapu and iwi within the Taihape district. Rates have been levied and collected by a range of local authorities, including district and county councils, and specific rates for rabbit, pest control, and catchment boards. The various authorities are listed in the discussion on local government issues above. For the purposes of this scoping report, research has focused on rating by the Rangitikei County Council.

The County Council files for the earlier part of the twentieth century (before the Rating Act 1925) show that the council noted when leases were granted over Maori land, and then sought payment of overdue rates from either the Maori Land Board or the owners directly.¹⁸ Council records also show it collected notices of partition applications and other Maori Land Court notices in order to identify the names of owners of subdivisions for rating purposes. The methods used by the council to recover overdue rates included suing for payment, and registering liens under the Rating Act 1913.¹⁹

By the early 1930s the County Council was finding it more difficult to collect rates from Maori land, and particularly from the lessees of Maori land in the northern part of the county. The council made more use of charging orders against Maori land for outstanding rates. In the mid 1940s Maori land around Taihape and Moawhango became the target of council rates demands. In 1946 a Tribal Committee was formed to meet with council and discuss arrangements to pay rates.²⁰ The council continued to seek rates charging orders for outstanding rates. The council often sought to negotiate a compromise settlement whereby at least fifty percent of the rates were paid, and the charging order would be withdrawn.

The block records in the Maori Land Court Records Document Bank contain numerous rates charging orders. Further research is required to compile this information and confirm the extent of rates charging order, and how they were discharged. The Rangitikei District Council holds a records series which contains nearly 200 rates files for individual Maori block subdivisions. A small random sample of these files was viewed for the scoping research. The

¹⁸ RDC 46 1.8:5:19 Native rates, arrears, properties, gazette notices, 1906-1923, Rangitikei District Council.

¹⁹ Evidence of Clerk of Rangitikei County Council to Native Lands Rating Commission, 1933, 22 June 1933, MA 1/407 20/1/14 pt 2, Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

²⁰ RDC 72 1.5 Maori:1:A/7 Maori Land-1329/110 Awarua 2C12B1 and Closed Road Claim 36, 1930-68, Rangitikei District Council.

files contain copies of charging orders, and notifications of the rates being paid or settlements reached. While some are small straightforward files concerned with charging orders, the small sample viewed also revealed more extended cases where the council consistently pursued payment, threatened receiverships, and was appointed receiver with the power to sell blocks. More research is required into this file series to ascertain the full impact of rates charging orders and receiverships.

During the 1940s the council also recognised that the poor quality of some of the high country blocks on the central plateau and in the Ruahine Ranges meant that rates should not be levied. For example in 1947 sections of the Owhaoko, Motukawa, Oruamatua Kaimanawa blocks and the Te Koau and Aorangi blocks were all exempted from rates. The grounds given were that the land had no access and / or was unoccupied scrub country.²¹ At the same time investigations were being made into occupation options for Owhaoko and Oruamatua Kaimanawa blocks.

In 1933 the county clerk reported that the council did not seek to be appointed receiver under the Rating Act 1925 for rates charges, preferring to use liens, and waiting for eventual payments.²² However, during the 1950s and 1960s the council did make use of the receivership provisions of the Rating Act 1925. The small sample of files viewed revealed that the council was appointed receiver for Motukawa 2B10B1 block in 1957. The receivership order was cancelled when one of the owners agreed to pay a negotiated settlement.²³ In 1946 the Aotea Maori Land Board was appointed receiver for Owhaoko D5 no 3, which may have been leased to Ngamatea Station. In 1948 the owners requested the land to be made exempt from rates on the grounds it was unleased and unoccupied.²⁴ There are general indications in the record that during the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s the council sought more receivership orders, and was often appointed the receiver. This is an area for further research. In February 1947 the Maori Trustee was appointed receiver for Taraketi

²¹ Extract from TOK MB 28, fols 156-8, in MA 1/413 20/1/38, Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

²² Evidence of Clerk of Rangitikei County Council to Native Lands Rating Commission, 1933, 22 June 1933, MA 1/407 20/1/14 pt 2, Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

²³ RDC 72 1.5 Maori:3:M/7 Maori Land – 1331/292 Motukawa 2B10B1 1926-73, Rangitikei District Council.

²⁴ RDC 72 1.5 Maori:4:O/16 Maori Land – 1329/59 Owhaoko D5 No 3, Rangitikei District Council.

1G2, 1G3, 1G4, 1G5, and 1G6, and the receivership was not discharged until 1970, indicating that the block was leased by the Maori Trustee to repay the rates.²⁵

As well as actual receiverships, the council could use the threat of an application for receivership to negotiate payments of outstanding rates. In the case of Ohingaiti 6A2 the owner was informed that the council intended to apply for receivership, but would be prepared to arrange a settlement for half the outstanding amount. The owner then agreed to pay half.²⁶

While the Rangitikei County Council favoured charging orders and receiverships, it does not appear that it made widespread use of the ‘better utilisation’ provisions of the Maori Purposes Act 1950. This Act provided that the Maori Trustee could be appointed agent of unoccupied Maori land, which owed rates, or which contained noxious weeds to lease or sell the block in order to pay rates. There appears to have only been one case in the Taihape Inquiry District where the council sought such an order. Due to outstanding rates on the Awarua 2C15B block, the Maori Land Court appointed the Maori Trustee agent under Section 387 of the Maori Affairs Act 1953.²⁷ Such appointments required ministerial consent. Investigations by the Maori Affairs Department found that the small size and location of the block made it unsuitable for offering to the owners to lease, and that it could only be of use to an adjoining farmer. Ministerial consent was refused.²⁸ The council was advised that it should apply instead to be appointed trustee under Section 438 with the power to sell the block. In 1968 the Maori Land Court vested the three acres in the council, which then sold the block. All of the proceeds of the sale were used to repay existing charges and council costs relating to the vesting and sale. The owners did not receive any of the purchase money.²⁹ Further research into rating issues should include a more detailed examination of this case, which has also been raised by claimants as a possible case study.

If a block of Maori land was leased the lessee, as occupier, was usually responsible for the payment of rates. Ensuring that rates could be paid was a motivating factor for leasing lands.

²⁵ T.H. Hearn, ‘Subd-district block study – southern aspect’, draft, 2011, p. 175. The draft block history contains no further information about the appointment of the Maori Trustee as receiver.

²⁶ RDC 72 1.5 Maori:4:O/37 Maori Land – 1337/146 Ohingaiti 6A2, Rangitikei District Council.

²⁷ AAMK 869 W3074 407b 12/1251, Archives New Zealand, Wellington. The block may have been the site of a Maori-owned flour mill in the nineteenth century.

²⁸ AAMK 869 W3074 407b 12/1251, Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

²⁹ RDC 72 1.5 Maori:1:A/31 Maori Land – 13290/154, Rangitikei District Council.

Conversely, land being unoccupied and 'idle' was one of the grounds for seeking a rates remission, as councils generally accepted that rates could not be paid if the land was not generating income. It is likely that the block history projects will reveal examples of the link between leasing and rates payments. There is a strong inter-relationship between land use, rental payments and rates liabilities, which involved the various interests and aims of Maori owners, Maori Land Board, local authority and occupiers.

Two examples included in the Maori Land Board files collected for the 'Crown and Private Land Purchasing Records and Petitions Index and Document Bank', demonstrate the complexity of the rates issue, and how it was linked to general lease administration matters. In the case of the Oruamatua Kaimanawa 2C2, 2C3, 1S, 2B2, 2C1, 1X, 3A, 2A, 1U, 1V blocks, there was a long history of the owners seeking rates remissions. Even though the land was leased, the lessee did not pay rent regularly, and during the 1930s the owners sought the assistance of the Maori Land Board to seek a rates remission. In 1939 the owners were told that they were not receiving any rent, because the funds held had been used to pay the rates, and it was up to them to negotiate a rates remission. The council agreed to compromise on the amount of rates due, in return for a 50 percent cash settlement.³⁰ While the land continued to be leased, the council continued to seek rates payments, but the lessee continued to default on both rent and rates payments. The Maori Land Board preferred to see the land still utilised, and was reluctant to terminate the lease. The board supported the owners' applications for rates remissions. In 1941 the council applied for the lease to be terminated so that the land could then be declared non-ratable.³¹

In the case of Rangipo Waiu B6C2, which was landlocked, the issue of who was liable for outstanding rates was complicated because the land had been occupied and used by an adjoining farmer, without any formal lease. The Maori Land Board considered that the land user should be considered the 'occupier', and that his estate should be charged for the rates. Eventually the Maori Land Board negotiated an agreement whereby the council would accept

³⁰ Summarised from MLC-WG W1645 3/5859 Oruamatua Kaimanawa 2C2, 2C3, 1S, 2B2, 2C1, 1X, 3A, 2A, 1U, 1V, 1937-1954, 'Crown and Private Land Purchasing Records and Petitions Document Bank', pp. 5639-5799.5818-5982.

³¹ Summarised from MLC-WG W1645 3/5859 Oruamatua Kaimanawa 2C2, 2C3, 1S, 2B2, 2C1, 1X, 3A, 2A, 1U, 1V, 1937-1954, 'Crown and Private Land Purchasing Records and Petitions Document Bank', pp. 5818-5982.

a 50 percent cash payment, which was split between the land owner and the estate of the occupier.³²

Anecdotal evidence suggests that Rabbit Board rates might be just as, if not more, important than County/District Council rates. Hazel Riseborough's history of Ngamatea Station records that when the Crown was negotiating to purchase the Owhaoko blocks, rabbit rates were used as a threat to encourage the owners to sell at a lower price.³³ Riseborough indicates that the high country areas were 'unleaseable and unusable, except as a traditional seasonal hunting and fishing resource', but that Maori were unable to lease the blocks or negotiate an agreement to the Crown. She then links 'piling up various taxes and rates' with the 1917 decision to gift large blocks to the Crown for Maori returned soldiers.³⁴ According to Riseborough, after the blocks became Crown land, but were not developed for settlement, neighbouring land owners were able to use the blocks for grazing without paying rent, but in return for paying the rabbit rates.³⁵ Stirling has also indicated the perceived link between rabbit rates and the gifting of the land.³⁶ Unfortunately, the main Lands and Survey file dealing with the Owhaoko gift blocks is now under restricted access at Archives, which meant it was not possible to check the file for further evidence about the rabbit rates. It may be that the Northern Block History research project will reveal further evidence about whether rabbit rates were part of the motivation for gifting the blocks. If not, this is a matter for further research.

Rabbit rates continued to be a factor for Maori land owners. Heinz notes that part of the Maori Land Court compensation award for defense leasehold lands in 1961 was the requirement that the Army should pay the rabbit rates.³⁷

Landlocked Blocks

During the discussions held with claimant groups (as outlined in section 1.1), the primary concern raised about rates and local government was the situation of large areas of Maori

³² Summarised from MLC-WG W1645 3/6186 Rangipo Waiu B6C2 1943, 49, in 'Crown and Private Land Purchasing Records and Petitions Document Bank', pp. 6529-6587.

³³ Hazel Riseborough, 'Ngamatea: The land and the people', p. 23.

³⁴ Hazel Riseborough, 'Ngamatea: The land and the people', p. 23.

³⁵ Riseborough, p. 24.

³⁶ Bruce Stirling and Evald Subasic, 'Taihape: Rangitikei ki Rangipo Inquiry District: Technical Research Scoping Report', CFRT, August, 2010, p. 106.

³⁷ Heinz, p. 70.

land which are without road access. This includes the Aorangi, some Awarua block, Te Koau, Awarua o Hinemanu and parts of the Owhaoko blocks. The owners and trusts administering the lands can only get access by helicopter, or seeking special permission to use farm or DOC tracks. This permission is not always granted, and has been a source of conflict in recent decades.

The issue of landlocked blocks and access was not specifically included in the project brief for this project, but it is clearly the issue of primary concern to claimants when it comes to considering rates and services received from local councils. We have therefore included a brief discussion of the landlocked blocks, but have not been able to investigate the title history to the blocks to confirm how this situation arose. Nor has it been possible to examine council or Maori Land Court records of previous attempts to gain access. It is likely that more information will be revealed in the Northern Block History, but at this stage it is unclear how much information the block histories will provide on the attempts to gain access from the council. This is an area of concern to the claimants, which involves very large blocks of land, and affects the owners' plans for land utilisation or opportunities to participate in hunting or tourism ventures.

The history of Ngamatea station includes numerous examples of the station holders in the area using Maori blocks for grazing without paying rent, or squatting on Maori blocks such as Te Koau.³⁸ For example, referring to the 1930s, Riseborough records 'There were no boundaries except the rivers and they [the Fernies] could push the sheep back as far as they liked even though there were no formal leases over most of the back country'.³⁹ *Ngamatea* gives some information about the way the station expanded by leasing and purchasing the landlocked large blocks around its perimeters. Riseborough suggest that the purchase of Owhaoko D7A and D7B in the mid 1950s meant the Crown had to abandon plans for a Maori land development scheme on the Owhaoko lands.⁴⁰ Riseborough notes that the inclusion of D7A and D7B 'made a huge difference' to the potential and success of the station. However, it also meant that Maori were denied the opportunity to have the lands used for large scale pastoralism in the same way as Pakeha had been. Presumably, the sale of the Owhaoko lands, and investigations into the development scheme potential of the Owhaoko gift blocks would

³⁸ Riseborough, pp. 24, 25, 51.

³⁹ Riseborough, p. 51.

⁴⁰ Riseborough, p. 81.

be covered in the Northern Block Histories and/or the twentieth century overview. In the early 1970s there were further investigations by the Crown into the viability of creating a development scheme base farm on Owhaoko D53 and D54 which had road frontage, but were leased to the station. However, the blocks were then purchased by the station, making use of the conversion scheme to acquire uneconomic interests.⁴¹ This is an important example for a case study in the twentieth century overview because the alienation of those block thwarted other development possibilities, as it meant the remaining Maori owned blocks were left without road access.

The difficulty of gaining access to the landlocked Owhaoko blocks and the Te Koau block remains an ongoing problem for those involved in administering the blocks today. The trust administering the Te Koau block has been seeking to have the Rangitikei District Council provide an access road for many years. The trust sees this as a matter of getting the council to take responsibility for landlocked blocks. While it has been unsuccessful to date, the council has agreed to exempt the landlocked blocks from rates. Nevertheless, the trust was already refusing to pay rates, and would prefer to have a road which meant they could use the land and therefore pay rates.⁴²

We consider that more research will be required into the landlocked blocks, either as a detailed case study in a rating report, or in the Twentieth Century Overview Report. The research would need to consider how the blocks came to be landlocked, the status of paper roads on the Maori and neighbouring blocks, the history of neighbouring stations using the Maori blocks (both with and without leases), rating charges and rates remissions, and applications to the Maori Land Court and the local council to obtain road access.

3.2 Key Sources

The local authorities operating within the Taihape Inquiry District, particularly Rangitikei District Council, have useful holdings of records relating to the rating of Maori land. It is fortunate for researchers that an extensive indexing and archiving project is currently underway to create a searchable on-line database, and central records repository. The Archives Central project is a joint venture between seven local authorities in the Manawatu, Wanganui and Tararua districts. As well as creating an online index, the Archives Central

⁴¹ Riseborough, pp. 184, 190.

⁴² Peter Steedman, Personal communication.

project is constructing a central repository for the records in Fielding, and it is anticipated that the archives will be relocated there in mid-2012.⁴³

The records held by Horizons Regional Council and Manawatu District Council are currently available for searching online. Work has nearly finished on indexing the records of the Rangitikei District Council, but they are not yet searchable online. Aaron Groube from Horizons Regional Council kindly supplied the working index, and that has been used to identify the files listed in the Bibliography.

Rangitikei District Council in Marton holds the records of the former Rangitikei County Council, Taihape Borough Council, and Marton Borough Council. The records held include minute books, rates and valuation rolls, and correspondence files, as listed in the Bibliography. The most relevant series is the '72 1.5 Maori' series which contains individual files for each Maori block with records of rates charging orders and correspondence regarding overdue rates. A small sample was viewed from this series, and further research is required into the full series to assess the full extent of rates charging orders and rate receiverships. There are also more general Maori land rating files which contain data about percentages of rates paid on Maori land compared to general land, and information about council policy and practices regarding the collection of Maori land rates.

Manawatu District Council in Fielding holds the records of the former Kiwitea County Council including inwards and outwards correspondence, general rates and arrears files, legal files, minute books, rate books and rate cards. It was not possible to view the Manawatu Council records within the constraints of this scoping report.

Horizons Regional Council in Palmerston North holds the records of the Rangitikei Catchment Board, the Ruahine Pest Destruction Board, and the Ruahine Rabbit Board. There are general rating files for all those agencies.

Archives New Zealand in Wellington also holds a number of files relating to the local authorities and rating of Maori land in the district. These are listed in the Bibliography. As

⁴³ www.archivescentral.org.nz

part of this scoping report we viewed some of the Maori Affairs files concerning rating and rating exemptions.

Further research will be required to assess the relevant records held by the Hastings District Council and the Takitimu District Maori Land Court. This will be especially necessary for the landlocked blocks.

3.3 Stage II Research Recommendation

Issues relating to the rating of Maori land, and the impact on land use and land alienation appear to be reasonably significant in the inquiry district, and there is a body of source material available from the Maori Land Court, Maori Land Board, Maori Affairs Department, and the local authorities, in particular 200 Maori land rating files held by the Rangitikei District Council, which is sufficient for further focused research.

While the stage 1 research is still underway at this time it is difficult to assess the extent to which rating issues are going to be examined in the block history projects. At the time of completion, a draft of the southern sub-district block history was available. The draft only contains two brief mentions of blocks affected by rates charging orders with no further details.⁴⁴ However, it must be borne in mind that rates charging order are likely to have been less significant in the southern part of the district, where most of the land had been alienated from Maori before the twentieth century. It will be more important to assess the coverage of rating issues in the Central and Northern sub-district block histories.

At this stage we propose two options for rating issues research. The options were discussed with clustered claimants during and after the Crown Forestry Rental Trust hui in January 2012. Those spoken with largely preferred option 2.

Option 1: Inclusion of rating issues and the issues surrounding the landlocked blocks in the 19th and 20th Century Overview Projects

or

Option 2: Separate Report on Maori Land Rating, with detailed case study of rating and access for the Landlocked Blocks

⁴⁴ The block history notes the appointment of the Maori Trustee as receiver for some Taraketi blocks. Further research is required into this appointment, and how the Maori Trustee acted as receiver.

Option 1: Inclusion in 19th and 20th Century Overview Reports

Advantages – examining the way rates were levied and collected on Maori land in the Taihape District as part of the overview reports would ensure that the link between the rating of Maori land, and the general history of land leasing, squatting, and land alienations in the district could be fully explored.

-The history of the Owhaoko and other landlocked blocks is going to be one of the more important issues for Taihape Maori in the twentieth century, and will need to feature in the overview report.

Disadvantages – the primary research required for the rating issues is most likely more than anticipated for the proposed overview project, which is intended to draw on the Stage 1 research. At this stage it does not appear that the block history projects will be providing sufficient detail on rates related alienations.

-inclusion in the overview is unlikely to allow for a detailed assessment and quantification of the amount of land directly alienated due to overdue rates. (To counter these disadvantages, it has been suggested that a preliminary project to collate the rating primary sources into a well indexed document bank could be commissioned, however, this option does raise complications for the timing of the research programme and would require an experienced researcher to identify the relevant material).

-clustered claimants have expressed the desire for a separate report on rating, particularly in regard to the landlocked blocks, to allow the many significant issues to be fully highlighted.

Option 2: Separate Maori Land Rating Project, including landlocked blocks case study

Advantages – would allow sufficient time for the records held in council archives to be fully explored.

- would allow for a more quantitative analysis of the extent of Maori land alienation due to rates charges.

-will be *necessary* if the block history studies do not include details from Maori Land Board or Maori Trustee files on rates receiverships.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ As noted above, the draft Southern Block History does not give details on how the Maori Trustee operated as receiver over the Taraketi blocks. At the time of writing, the central and northern block history drafts had not been submitted.

- would ensure that the important issues relating to the landlocked blocks are adequately covered in one report to allow for a full analysis of how various Crown policies relating to rating and services provided by local government have impacted on Maori landowners' opportunities to exercise tino rangatiratanga over large areas of their land in the district.
- would meet the clustered claimants concerns about the importance of fully investigation the impact of rates on the landlocked blocks, and the failure to provide access and other services.

Disadvantages – research focused on rating may not be able to easily analysis the relationship with the way the Maori Land Board administered and/or facilitated alienations to meet rates charges. To counter this the role of the Maori Land Board will need to be included in the rating research project brief (see below).

- The history of the Owhaoko and other landlocked blocks will also need to be covered in the twentieth century overview. Ideally the rating report would be written before the overview report so that its evidence and findings could be incorporated into the overview, but that is unlikely under the proposed casebook timetable.

If the block history projects do not cover in sufficient detail Maori Land Board alienation files which involve overdue rates and/or rates exemptions and do not include details where the Maori Land Board or the Maori Trustee was appointed receiver, we recommend that a separate rating report should be commissioned, as per option 2. This is in line with the feedback received on the preliminary recommendations, which was largely in favour of a separate report on rating issues and provision of access to landlocked blocks.

If a separate report is agreed upon, it should be researched and written by a **professional historian** with experience in Maori Land Administration issues, the Maori Land Board and Maori Trustee. Experience with rating issues is preferred. We estimate that **six months** would be required to research and write the report. Travel allowance should be made for meetings with claimants in the region, and for extended research at the council archives, the Office of the Maori Trustee in Wanganui, the Maori Land Court in Hastings, and Hastings District Council. Allowance will also need to be made for research at Archives in Wellington if the researcher is not Wellington based. Contract mapping is likely to be needed to demonstrate the extent of rates alienations and to show the location of landlocked blocks in relation to formed and paper roads.

Regardless of which option the Waitangi Tribunal and CFRT choose to implement, the following issues should be considered for inclusion in the project brief:

- A summary of the policy and practices governing the levying and collection of rates and the role of the Crown (based on existing secondary research and reviews).
- Has rating and valuation legislation, policy and/or practice recognised the particular nature of Maori land and the tenure system under which it is held?
- Whether classes of Maori land were exempted from rates in the district, and whether this changed over time?
- What roles did local councils and boards, the Maori Land Court, District Maori Land Boards and the Maori Trustee have regarding the levying and collection of rates on Maori land in the Taihape district?
- To what extent were Maori land owners consulted about the rating of their land? The reaction of Maori in the Taihape district to the imposition of rates and the possibility of compulsory alienations for non-payment.
- The extent and impact of local body charges (including those of district council, pest control boards, catchment boards and other agencies) on Maori land holdings in the Taihape district.
- To what extent has ratings pressure caused the temporary or permanent alienation of Maori land in the Taihape district?
- To what extent has rating affected Maori aspirations for utilising their land?
- The extent to which local bodies sought the appointment of a receiver for blocks with outstanding rates charges. The extent to which such receiverships resulted in compulsory long term leasing or sales of the land.
- Case studies of blocks where the County Council, the Maori Land Board and the Maori Trustee were appointed receiver. The sale of Awarua 2C15B should be included as a case study.
- The process whereby certain blocks came to be without road-access. The history of attempts by the owners to gain access rights through Maori Land Court applications or local council roading requests.
- How have local authorities responded to requests for rates remission, particularly for those blocks without legal access?

- The impact of lack of access to Maori blocks in the Taihape district? How has lack of access limited potential economic ventures for such blocks? What problems do owners/trustees face to administer the blocks?

4. Potaka Native Township (Utiku)

4.1 Summary of Issues

Potaka Native Township (more commonly known as Utiku) was gazetted under the Native Townships Act in July 1899.⁴⁶ The Native Township Act vested areas of Maori Land in the Commissioner of Crown Lands, with the power to subdivide the land into sections for leasing. The intention was to create a Pakeha settlement on Maori land, without acquiring the freehold. As the only Native Township, Potaka Native Township was administered under a unique system in the Taihape district: firstly by the Commissioner of Crown Lands; then the Aotea District Maori Land Board; and finally by the Maori Trustee. The administration of Native Township land by Crown agencies was governed by the specific Native Township legislation, and then under the provisions of the Maori Reserved Land Act. The Native Townships Act 1895 and subsequent legislation, and general Crown policy regarding Native Townships has already been well covered in reports for other districts. Bassett Kay Research has researched and written two reports on Native Townships, in the East Coast and Rohe Potae districts, which fully explain the special provisions governing township land, including recent important changes made since 1997.⁴⁷

Potaka Township was set aside on part of Awarua 4C9, which was owned by Utiku Potaka, his wife, and four of their children.⁴⁸ Awarua 4C9 was later subdivided, and the township was made up of Awarua 4C9G, H, I, J, K, and L. Utiku Potaka was a leading chief, with large landholdings, and business enterprises. These included a timber mill at Utiku, which supplied timber for the construction of the main trunk railway line. Mr Potaka had already established a settlement on the site which was to become the native township. Before the township was surveyed there were already a number of buildings including the mill, school, an accommodation house, dwellings and ‘whares’, which were occupied by Pakeha.⁴⁹ Although

⁴⁶ *New Zealand Gazette*, 3 August 1899, p. 1404.

⁴⁷ Heather Bassett and Richard Kay, ‘The Impact of the Native Townships Act 1895 on the East Coast: Te Puia, Waipiro, Tuatini and Te Araroa Native Townships’, Crown Forestry Rental Trust, March 2008, and Heather Bassett and Richard Kay, ‘The Impact of the Native Townships Acts in Te Rohe Potae: Te Kuiti, Otorohanga, Karewa, Te Puru and Parawai Native Townships’, Crown Forestry Rental Trust, 2011.

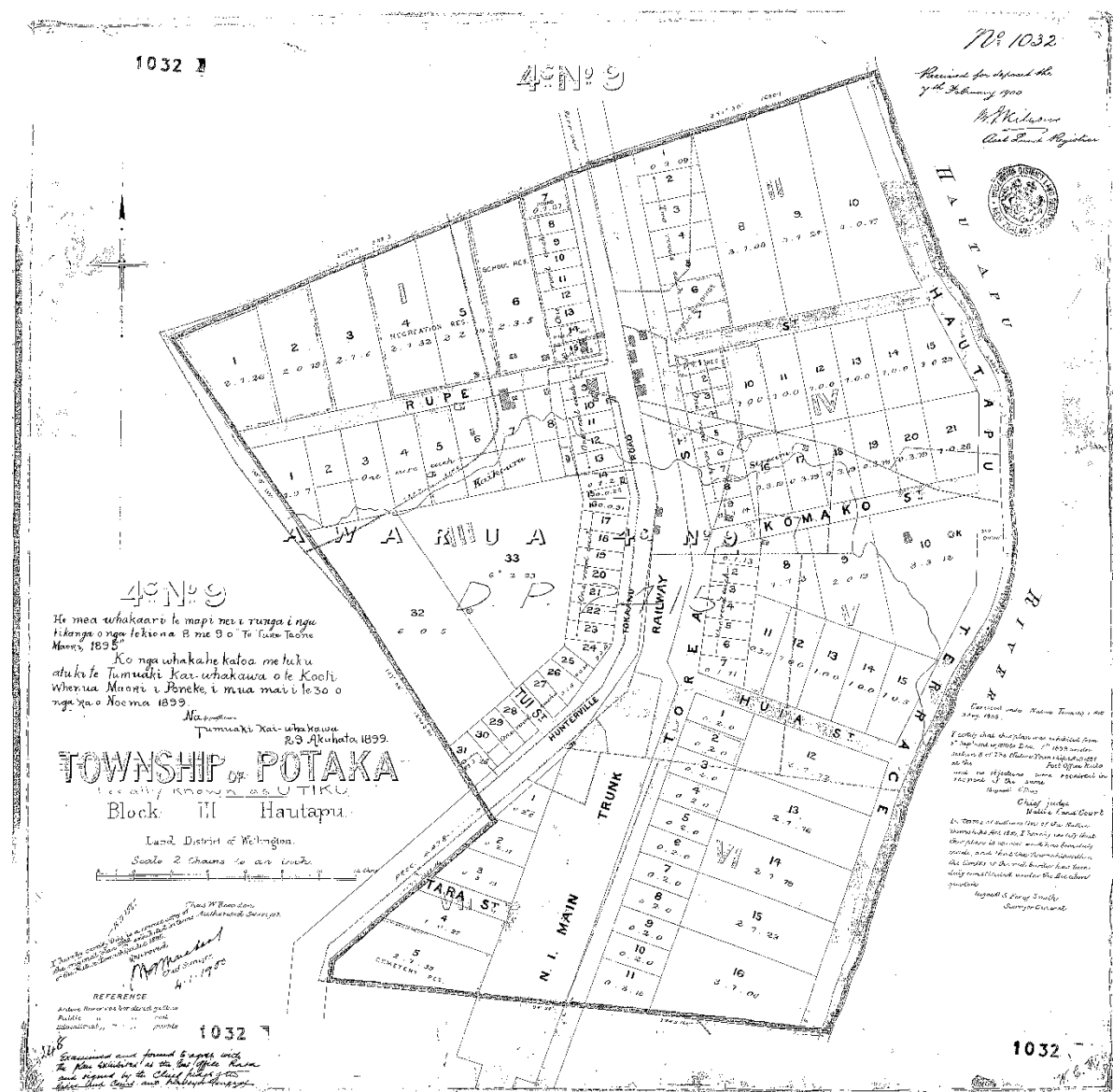
⁴⁸ His wife, Rora Tioiroa was entitled in her own right, personal communication, Potaka Whanau Trust, 31 January 2012.

⁴⁹ MA 1/1162 1916/4167, Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

it appears that Utiku Potaka agreed to the creation of a Native Township on his land, the main township file does not give any details about any initial offer by Mr Potaka, or negotiations and attempts by the Crown to set up the township. This is an area that requires further research, possibly in other MA-MLP files.

Figure three is the survey plan showing how the township was subdivided and laid off by the Land Department:

Figure 3: Township of Potaka Survey Plan⁵⁰



⁵⁰ DP 1032.

The table 1 shows how the Potaka township area was subdivided by the Crown (see Map 3):

Table 1: Potaka Native Township Sections and Road Areas⁵¹

Area of sections	110a 0r 12p
Area of roads and streets	24a 1r 00p
Area of cliff	3a 2r 28p
Total	138a 0r 00p

The Crown was not required to pay compensation for the area of land laid off as streets. The total 24 acres of roads represented 17 percent of the township area, which the Crown acquired for free.

Under the Native Townships Act, the Crown could set aside sections as Crown Reserves for public purposes. No compensation had to be paid to the owners for the Crown Reserves. The rationale was that the provision of public facilities would benefit the township as a whole, and result in higher land values and rental returns for the owners. When the township was surveyed, the following sections were set aside as Crown Reserves.⁵²

Table 2: Crown Reserves set aside in Potaka Native Township

Section	Area	Purpose
Section 4 blk I	2a 1r 32p	public recreation ground /Utiku Domain Board
Section 5 blk I	2a 2r 19p	public recreation ground
Section 6 blk I	2a 3r 05p	public school site
Section 7 blk I	0a 1r 31p	public pound site
Section 14 blk I	0a 1r 00p	public hall site
Section 15 blk I	0a 1r 00p	public school site
Section 6 blk II	0a 2r 00p	public building
Section 7 blk II	0a 2r 00p	public building
Section 1 blk IV	0a 1r 00p	post office site
Section 5 blk VII	2a 1r 39p	public cemetery

The status, use and control of the Crown Reserves will need to be researched. Not all were used by the Crown for the designated purpose. The cemetery reserve was never used as a cemetery. Instead the Lands and Survey Department received an income from the reserve through grazing leases. The reservation of the cemetery reserve was revoked in 1958, and it was subsequently revested in the owners without charge after it was acknowledged that the

⁵¹ Marchant, Chief Surveyor to Surveyor General, 8 July 1899, MA 1/1162 1916/4167, Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

⁵² *New Zealand Gazette*, 29 June 1900.

Crown had not paid compensation for the reserve.⁵³ There has not been time to research the fate of the other reserves for this scoping report. According to Neville Lomax the other reserves were eventually transferred back to the owners because they were no longer required by the Crown.⁵⁴

The Native Townships Act gave a small measure of protection to existing sites of Maori occupation by providing that up to 20 percent of the sections could be set aside as Native Reserves. Seven sections, totaling 12 acres 3 roods 28 perches were set aside as Native Reserves.⁵⁵ It appears that Utiku Potaka selected the reserve sections for himself and his family.

Leases of township sections were first offered in May 1900. Out of the 94 leases put up for tender, 27 sections were leased. Up to September 1901, £88 rent was received, out of which £76 5s was deducted to pay the survey costs. The remaining £11 was paid to Utiku Potaka, who choose to pay the survey cost in one lump sum rather than over 10 years as was the case in other townships.⁵⁶ The unleased sections were offered again in 1904, at which time almost all were leased. There were later complaints that tenants were not paying rents.

The term 'Native Township' implies it was a Maori township, but the reality was that the Native Townships legislation provided the means create a Pakeha settlement on Maori owned land. In 1909 the *Wanganui Chronicle* referred to the township: 'Utiku although a native township not a native in sight.'⁵⁷

Newspaper accounts from 1908 record that Maori at Utiku wished to sell the freehold of the township, and also statements from Native Minister James Carroll before the passage of the Native Townships Act 1910 that the Crown hoped to negotiate directly to purchase Utiku township.⁵⁸ The main file for the township however, contains no reference to any offers to

⁵³ See AFIE 18842/151 R/79 pt 1 Section 5 Block VII – Potaka Township – Gabolinscy R 1933-68, Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

⁵⁴ Personal communication, Neville Lomax, Mokai Patea Waitangi Claims Trust Hui, 26 October 2011.

⁵⁵ Utiku Potaka to Mr Marchant, Chief Surveyor, 29 June 1899, MA 1/1162 1916/4167, Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

⁵⁶ MA 1/1162 1916/4167, Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

⁵⁷ *Wanganui Chronicle*, 21 September 1909, 'Te Rangitikei Election', Papers Past.

⁵⁸ For example, *Evening Post*, 30 June 1908, 'Native Townships', *Grey River Argus*, 8 August 1910, 'Native Township Races', *Wanganui Herald*, 2 July 1908, 'Utiku Natives and their lands'.

sell or Crown purchase negotiations. Further research should investigate the MA-MLP series, or other MA files for records of any Crown purchase negotiations.

In 1923 three sections were sold to the Taihape Dairy Company to build a dairy factory. The sale was consented to because it was thought a dairy factory would improve the prospects of the township, which was said to have been in 'a bad way for some years'. The sections were sold by the Aotea District Maori Land Board with the written consent of the owner.⁵⁹

Under the 1895 Act, township leases were for 21 years, with the right of renewal for one further term of 21 years. However, after 1908, when the administration of the townships was transferred to the Aotea Maori Land Board, leases were offered with a perpetual right of renewal. In 1923 lessees were requesting perpetual leases. Further research will be required to determine the extent that perpetual leases were offered at Utiku, and the implications of the change to perpetual leasing.

In 1949, the Maori Land Board relinquished control of 15 sections, which were revested in the beneficial owners.⁶⁰ It is most likely that these sections were not subject to perpetual lease. Over time, various sections were revested in owners on the grounds that they were unleased, or because other arrangements were underway, including proposed sales.

In 1952 Maori Land Boards were abolished and responsibility for Native Townships was transferred to the Maori Trustee. In 1955 the Native Townships Act was repealed and the township lands became subject to the Maori Reserved Land Act 1955. Under the 1955 Act, the prescribed leases gave a perpetual right of renewal.

In 1975 the Sheehan Commission into Maori Reserved Lands reported that Utiku Native Township consisted of 64 acres of Maori Reserved Land, of which 12 acres 2 roods 6 perches was public reserves. At that time there were 237 shareholders with 18.4370 shares in Utiku township. There were approximately 115 sections of which 45 were quarter acre sites and the remainder were half an acre to over three acres in size. There were 43 reserved land leases which generated \$525.24 per annum in rental. The commission found that sections were

⁵⁹ MA 1/1318, 1923/259, Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

⁶⁰ Potaka Township BOF, 'Maori Land Court Records: Document Bank Project', Taihape ki Rangitikei Series, Vol II.

being combined and predicted the future use for the land would be farming which was reflected in the rural zoning. The owners who gave evidence asked that the administration of the township be changed to provide them with representation and a say in its administration.⁶¹

Further research into the Maori Trustee township records is required to determine what changes, if any, were made following the Sheehan Commission recommendations. The many problems associated with leasing Maori Reserved Land then led to a further series of panels and commission and investigations, which sought to provide a compromise solution for the perpetual leases. The eventual result was the Maori Reserved Land Act Amendment Act 1997, which maintained perpetual leases, but made some changes designed to give owners greater opportunities to resume the leases. A series of compensation payments were also made under that Act. Further research is required to assess the impact of the 1997 Act and any settlement payments made. Our previous reports on Native Townships in the East Coast and Te Rohe Potae Districts have revealed that there are still significant ongoing issues for Maori owners (and lessees) of Maori Township sections.

A preliminary Maori Land on Line Search reveals that today there are 13 different Maori Land Court titles for Potaka Maori Township, at least 4 of which are made up of different sections under 21 year lease, with rights of renewal. Of these, two were revested in the beneficial owners in 1995, and two were not revested until the mid-2000s. The Maori Trustee is still involved as administrator of the perpetual leases.⁶²

The main informant regarding the Utiku Township claim has been Neville Lomax, who is an owner of some of the land, as well as a lessee, and who has been involved with the trusts set up to administer township sections which have been revested in owners.⁶³ Mr Lomax and other members of the Potaka whanau have lodged the Wai 385 statement of claim about the township. Mr Lomax said one of the issues of concern to him was the way the Maori Trustee sold off sections which the owners had expected would be handed back. The sections which have been revested are ‘uneconomic’ according to Mr Lomax, and the owners are still stuck with the perpetual leases. Mr Lomax set up the Potaka Whanau Trust to take over the revested sections, with the intention that all the descendants of Utiku and Rora Potaka would

⁶¹ Sheehan Commission, p. 185, pp. 297-298.

⁶² Personal communication, District Manager, Office of the Maori Trustee, Wellington.

⁶³ Personal communication, Neville Lomax, Mokai Patea Waitangi Claims Trust Hui, 26 October 2011.

be beneficiaries. However, the Maori Trustee revested separate sections in only the descendants of the specific owners of those sections. This means there are now separate, largely uneconomic trusts, and it is hard to find the necessary trustees. Mr Lomax was aware of the negotiations and payments made under the Maori Reserve Land Act Amendment Act 1997, and recalls that approximately \$4,300 was paid for all the village sections as the payment to help resume leases. Further research is required regarding how the Maori Trustee has implemented the 1997 Act, and the process whereby sections have been revested in the owners.

4.2 Sources

There is no existing secondary research on the history of Potaka Native Township. As noted, full details on Crown policy and legislation regarding Native Townships up until 2005 can be found in reports by Bassett Kay Research for Te Rohe Potae and East Coast inquiry districts.

The only relevant primary source material collected in the Research Assistance document banks are the Maori Land Court Block Order files included in the Maori Land Court Records document bank. The project brief for the Central Block History project underway by Historyworks includes Potaka Native Township. There will be something of an overlap with the block history project. Discussions with the Historyworks team agreed that they would only be covering the title records, such as partitions, leases and sales, and would not be delving into the archival record regarding the administration of the township.

A search of the Papers Past website revealed some mentions of Utiku, in terms of the location of the railway line and sidings, and interest in freeholding the township, along with some indications of the population. Relevant newspaper entries identified to date are listed in the Bibliography.

Archives New Zealand in Wellington holds a large number of files which will be relevant for further research into the township. They are listed in the Bibliography. The MA-MLC WG series contains the Aotea District Maori Land Board alienation files for each township section, and the MA series contains more general township administration files. There are also files from other departments concerning the public reserves under their administration. The following files were the most substantial which were viewed as part of the scoping research:

MA 1/1162 1916/4167 is the former LS main file for the township. It covers the period 1898-1931, and includes:

- initial investigations about the best site for the town, including questions about where the railway station would be sited.
- correspondence about surveying the township, and useful maps and plans.
- the selection of the native reserve sections.
- cost of surveying township, and Utiku Potaka's arrangements to pay survey costs.
- lease offers, and rental returns.
- correspondence in the 1920s about whether the lessees had the right to perpetual renewal.
- complaints from an owner in 1930 about the status of township lands, and Maori Land Board administration.

MA 1/1318, 1923/259 concerns the approval of the sale of three sections to the Taihape Dairy Company in 1923.

AAVN 869 W3599/238 54/16/8 gives details regarding various applications to have sections revested in owners between 1931 and 1967, which reveal the reasons for the applications.

AFIE 18842/151 R/79 concerns the Lands and Survey administration and leasing of the cemetery reserve, and eventual revesting in the owners free of charge.

Since 1955 the Whanganui Office of the Maori Trustee has been the primary administrator of the township lands. Most of its files have not been archived, and are still held either at the Whanganui office or in off-site storage. This will be a key source for further research, particularly regarding the use of prescribed Maori Reserved Land perpetual leases, the implementation of the 1997 Amendment Act, and the revesting of sections. The Maori Trustee requires prior notice of requests to view files, so they can be ordered from storage, and all files have to be viewed at the Maori Trustee office. A list of some of the files still held has been supplied, and is in the Bibliography. There are likely to be more files than those listed.

4.3 Stage II Research Recommendation

Research memoranda prepared by the Waitangi Tribunal Unit, and the project brief have combined the history of Potaka Native Township with local government issues, with the aim of considering the development of the township as part of questions relating to 'whether local

government impeded or assisted Taihape Maori to develop their capabilities and with what effect.⁶⁴ However, our experience researching Native Townships in other districts, and brief examination of the records relating to Potaka Native Township, leads to the conclusion that the key issues for the claimants and Tribunal regarding the township relate to the administration of the township by central government agencies: Commissioner of Crown Lands; Aotea District Maori Land Board; and the Maori Trustee. The Rangitikei County Council was not involved in the administration of the township.

A **separate research report** on ‘Utiku / Potaka Native Township 1895-2012’ should be commissioned. As a discrete issue governed by a specific legislative regime, and confined to one small area of land, the history of Potaka Native Township can be handily dealt with as a separate research topic. It is important that the period covered by the research extend to the present day to cover the impact of the perpetual leases and the outcomes under the Maori Reserve Land Act Amendment Act 1997.

The recommendation for a separate research project was supported in discussions with the clustered claimants, including those involved with the Wai 385 claim regarding Potaka Native Township. Commissioning a separate research report, rather than inclusion in a twentieth century overview, would allow more time for detailed research into the many Maori Land Board and Maori Trustee files, and would ensure adequate research into more recent events.

To ensure research is undertaken efficiently and an informed analytical coverage the report should be written by a **professional historian** with experience in the areas of twentieth century Maori land administration, the policies and practices of the Maori Trustee, and preferably with experience researching Native Townships.⁶⁵

⁶⁴ Waitangi Tribunal Unit, ‘Wai 2180 Taihape Inquiry Research Programme’, May 2011, Wai 2180 6.2.17, p. 9.

⁶⁵ The question was raised at the hui for feedback on the draft recommendations of whether the expertise of a legal historian was required for this project. We consider that the legislation governing Native Townships has been fully examined in previous Bassett Kay Research projects. If there are found to be particular issues of law, these could be dealt with in legal submissions as part of the hearing process, using the evidence provided by the research report.

We recommend that whoever is appointed should liaise closely with the Potaka Whanau Trust for further information on the issues faced by the owners and/or trustees.

The time required to research and write the report would be approximately **three months**, depending on the level of coverage in the Central Block History.⁶⁶ Allowance should be made for adequate travel to Taihape to meet with claimants, and for extended research in Wanganui at the Maori Land Court and into the records of the Maori Trustee. Research will also be required at National Archives in Wellington. We envisage that contract mapping work would be required to demonstrate how the township sections overlapped with Maori Land Court titles, and illustrate the extent of the land acquired by the Crown and land perpetually leased.

Issues to be included in the project should include:

- What was the purpose of the Native Townships legislation, and whom was it intended to benefit?
- How and why was Potaka Native Township established? What was the nature of consultation with the owners of the land? What was the background to the establishment, particularly with consideration of the development of the main trunk line?
- To what extent were Maori already using the land that was proclaimed?
- Were any undertakings given to the owners about the establishment of the township? If so, were these conditions addressed?
- What was the extent of land set aside for Native allotments within the township?
- What was the extent and nature of consultation with the owners regarding the size and location of these allotments? Were they subject to alienation restrictions? Were they subject to rates?
- What costs did the owners have to bear for the establishment of the township, including surveys and land transferred to the Crown without payment?
- What land was set aside as public reserves? Were these reserves used for the proclaimed purpose? When the reserved land was no longer required, was it reverted in the owners?
- How were the townships managed and administered? What legislation affected changes to the management and administration of Potaka Native Townships? What consultation with the owners took place over the management and administration of the Native Township?

⁶⁶ If the basic title history, including leasing and sales data is not included in the Block History, more time will be required to research and write the report.

- What were the renewal terms of the original leases of the township sections? Were perpetual leases granted by either the Commissioner of Crown Lands or the Aotea District Maori Land Board? If so, did the owners consent to the issue of perpetual leases?
- How did the Crown deal with unleased sections?
- What restrictions were there on the sale of township sections and native allotments? Did these restrictions change?
- How much Maori land within Potaka Native Township was sold under Crown administration?
- Did the Crown negotiate to acquire the freehold of the township?
- What were Maori expectations about the benefits arising from the native township scheme? Did the owners and/or local iwi/hapu receive any economic benefit from the township?
- What was the impact of the township land being bought under the jurisdiction of the Maori Reserved Land Act 1955? Were prescribed perpetual leases issued under that Act? What has been the impact of the leases on the economic return to the owners and the ability of the owners to resume control and/or occupation of their land?
- How were the changes made by the Maori Reserved Land Act Amendment Act 1997 implemented by the Maori Trustee regarding the administration of Potaka township and the perpetual leases.
- What processes were used to consult with owners about the changes made by the 1997 Act, and to revest sections in the control of the owners? Were the expressed wishes of the owners adequately taken into consideration? Were any sections sold at this time instead of being revested?
- What is the status of the township land today?

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5.2 Local Government and Rating Issues

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AAFZ 7174 W1624/7 20649 Noxious Weeds Act – Kiwitea County Council 1904-1974

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MLC-WG W1645/124 3/1532 Potaka Township, Block 6, Lots 6-7 & 8 1912-54

MLC-WG W1645/126 3/1654 Potaka Township, Block 3, Section 10, 1918-40

MLC-WG W1645/81 3/1920/239 Sections 14/15 18/21/IV/ Potaka M Township 1917-20

MLC-WG W1645/130 3/1922 Potaka Township, Allotment 9, Block IV, 1913-71

MLC-WG W1645/131 3/2015 Potaka Township, Block III, Sections 15 & 16, 1916-39

MLC-WG W1645/143 3/3061A Potaka Township, Block I, Sections 11, 12 & 13, 1917-64

MLC-WG W1645/144 3/3137 Sections 1, 2 & 8, Block V, Potaka Township 1913-28

MLC-WG W1645/165 3/4231 Section 3, Block VI, Potaka Maori Township, 1924-48

MLC-WG W1645/166 3/4269 Lot 16, Block IV, Potaka Maori Township, 1914-68

MLC-WG W1645/178 3/4802 Sections 32 & 33, Block 3, Potaka N Township, 1925-34
 MLC-WG W1645/182 3/4964 Lots 7 & 8, Block 3, Potaka N Township, 1920-68
 MLC-WG W1645/188 3/5178 Sections 2, 3, & 4, Block III, Potaka N Township, 1918-36
 MLC-WG W1645/191 3/5268 Lots 20, 23 & Pt 24, Block III, Potaka N Township 1919-37
 MLC-WG W1645/194 3/5359 Lot 22, Block III, Potaka N Township, 1937-42
 MLC-WG W1645/197 3/5523 Lots 6 & 7, Block V, Potaka Township 1917-59
 MLC-WG W1645/198 3/5565 Section 5, Block IV, Potaka Township 1917-59
 MLC-WG W1645/204 3/5706 Sections 2 & 17, Block IV, Potaka Township 1913-50
 MLC-WG W1645/205 3/5714 Lots 8-13, Block I, Potaka M Township 1912-54
 MLC-WG W1645/207 3/5786 Lots 12-16, Block 6, Potaka M Township 1939-54
 MLC-WG W1645/215 3/6048 Lot 15, Block I, Potaka M Township, 1941
 MLC-WG W1645/217 3/6101 Lots 9 & 10, Block V, Potaka M Township, 1920-64
 MLC-WG W1645/217 3/6104 Lots 20 & 23, Block III, Potaka M Township, 1941
 MLC-WG W1645/218 3/6177 Section 24, Block III, Potaka M Township 1943-64
 MLC-WG W1645/224 3/6417 Lot 4, Block IV, Potaka N Township, 1947-77
 MLC-WG W1645/225 3/6486 Section 2, Block II, Potaka M Township 1918-48
 MLC-WG W1645/229 3/6637 Section 23, Block III, Potaka Township, 1951-60
 MLC-WG W1645/229 3/6643 Lot 6, Block II, Potaka Township 1914-51
 MLC-WG W1645/230 3/6684 Lot 3, Block I, Potaka M Township, 1951
 MLC-WG W1645/231 3/6744 Sections 20/22, Block III, Potaka M Township, 1937-61
 MLC-WG W1645/231 3/6745 Sections 17/19, Block III, Potaka M Township 1914-38
 MLC-WG W1645/231 3/6781 Lots 12/15, Block V, Potaka M Township 1952-53
 MLC-WG W1645/231 3/6784 Lot 5, Block II, Potaka M Township 1953
 MLC-WG W1645/279 4/4231 Potaka Native Township, Block VI, Section 3, 1943-45
 MLC-WG W1645/282 4/5178 Potaka TS, Sections 2, 3 and 4, nd
 MLC-WG W1645/288 4/5706 Potaka M Township, Sections 2 and 17, IV, nd
 MLC-WG W1645/288 4/5714 Potaka MT Sections 11/14 III, 1943
 MLC-WG W1645/288 4/5786 Potaka MT Lots 12/16 VI nd
 MLC-WG W1645/290 4/6101 Potaka MT Lots 9/10 V 1943
 MLC-WG W1645/291 4/6643 Potaka TS Lot 8, Block II, 1956-66
 MLC-WG W1645/291 4/6744 Potaka MT Block III, Sections 20/22 nd
 MLC-WG W1645/291 4/6745 Potaka MT Block III, Sections 17/19 nd

Maps

AADS W3740/F176 384, Wellington Land District: Potaka Township, 1903

AADS W3740/F177 411, Wellington Land District: Potaka Township, 1903

AAMA 619/33 4/147 Wellington: Potaka Native Township 1925-55

Ministry of Works – Wanganui Office

AATC 5114 W3456 box 99 PW 45/182, Utiku Township Block, 1901-08

AATC 5114 W3457 box 341, 44/28, Utiku Township, 1909-15

Department of Conservation, Head Office

AANS 6095 W5491/1000 1/67 Recreation Reserves – Utiku Domain 1901-41

AANS 6095 W5491/122 22/3810 Reserves – General – Wellington Land District – Utiku
Public Hall (Part School Site)

Department of Conservation, Wanganui

AFIE 619/93 8/3/36 pt 1, Utiku Recreation Reserve 1919-63

AFIE 619/93 8/3/36 pt 2 Utiku Recreation Reserve 1948-83

AFIE 619/93 8/3/36 pt 3 Utiku Recreation Reserve 1963-85

AFIE 18842/151 R/79 pt 1 Section 5 Block VII – Potaka Township – Gabolinscy R 1933-68

AFIE 18842 W5683/49 RES 445 Sections 7 and 14, Block I Potaka Township 1914-1917

Wanganui Post Office

AADI 560/82/a 27/100 Utiku 1927-48

AADI 560/82/b 27/100 Utiku 1958-67

AADI 560/83a 27/100 Utiku 1937-46

AADI 560/83/b 27/100 Utiku 1946-51

Post Office, Headquarters

AAME 909 W3280/86 88/1236 Utiku 1984-85

ADOU 17220 POW 2698/43 76/3051 Utiku 1897-1970

Office of the Maori Trustee, Wanganui

[Files are held in off-site storage, and need to be ordered in advance]

The following list was supplied by the Maori Trustee Office. There are also further lists of files which can be viewed at the office in Wanganui.

Potaka M.T. (Maori) Township - Sec. (Section) 2 Blk (Block) 11 Awarua 4C91

Awarua 4C91 - Potaka M.T. (Maori) Township - Sec. (Section) 4 Blk (Block) 11 - 2R 00P

Awarua 4C91 - Potaka M.T. (Maori) Township - Sec. (Section) 4 Blk (Block) 11 - 2R 00P

Potaka M.T. (Maori) Township - Sec. (Section) 5 Blk (Block) 11 - Awarua 4C91

Potaka Maori Township - Sec. (Section) 6 Blk (Block) 11 - 2R 00P

Potaka Maori Township - Sec. (Section) 7 Blk (Block) 11 - 2R 00P - Public Buildings
Reserve

Potaka Maori Township - Sec. (Section) 7 Blk (Block) 11 - 2R 00P - Public Buildings
Reserve

Potaka Maori Township - Sec. (Section) 9 Blk (Block) 11

Potaka Maori Township - Sec. (Section) 9 Blk (Block) 11

Potaka Maori Township - Sec. (Section) 10 Blk (Block) 11

Potaka Native (Maori) Township - Sec. (Section) 10 Blk (Block) 11

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 1 Blk (Block) 3 - 1A. OR. 07P - Transferred by
Board to Owners 17 - 12 - 1945

Potaka Native (Maori) Township - Sec. (Section) 2-4 Blk (Block) 3 - 1A. OR. 00P

Potaka Native (Maori) Township - Sec. (Section) 3 Blk (Block) 3 - 1A. OR. 00P - Lessee - P.
H. Henery

Potaka Native (Maori) Township - Sec. (Section) 4 Blk (Block) 3 - 1A. OR. 00P - Lessee - P.
H. Henery

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 5 Blk (Block) 3 - 1A. OR. 00P - Native Reserve

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 6 Blk (Block) 3 - 1A. OR. 00P - Native Reserve

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 7 Blk (Block) 3

Potaka Native (Maori) Township - Sec. (Section) 7 Blk (Block) 3

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 8 Blk (Block) 3

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 9 Blk (Block) 3 - 1R. 00P Lessee - Accomodation
House - Vacant

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 10 Blk (Block) 3 - 1R. 00P Lessee - Mrs R. M.
Gibbs

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 11 & 12 Blk (Block) 3 - 1R. 00P Lessee - Mrs R.
M. Gibbs

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 12 Blk (Block) 3 - 1R. 00P Lessee - Mrs R. M. Gibbs

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 1 Blk (Block) 3 - 1R. 00P

Potaka Native (Maori) Township - Sec. (Section) 15 - 16 Blk (Block) 3

Potaka Native (Maori) Township - Sec. (Section) 16 Blk (Block) 3 - Lessee - M. O'Brien

Potaka Native (Maori) Township - Sec. (Section) 17, 18 & 19 Blk (Block) 3 - 3 Roods

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 18 Blk (Block) 3 - 1 Rood - Lessee - J. L. Moore -
Now Colleen Margaret Potaka

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 19 Blk (Block) 3 - 1 Rood - Lessee - J. L. Moore -
Now Colleen Margaret Potaka

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 21 Blk (Block) 3 - 1 R. 00P. - Lessee - J. L. Moore -
Now Colleen Margaret Potaka

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 22 Blk (Block) 3 - 1 R. 00P. - Lessee - J. L. Moore -
Now Colleen Margaret Potaka

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 24, 25 & 26 Pt. (Part) Blk (Block) 3

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 24 Blk (Block) 3

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 25 Blk (Block) 3 - refer file 9/3/49

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 24 Blk (Block) 3 - refer file 9/3/49 - no papers

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 27 Blk (Block) 3 - Part Awarua 4C9K

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 29 Blk (Block) 3 - 1 R. 00P.- Lessee Mrs A. Maher
- Original Lease No 236 To R. F. Perham, F.J Carter & A.B Larsen attached to 9/3/18

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 30 Blk (Block) 3 - 1 R. 00P.- Lessee Mrs A. Maher
- Original Lease No 236 To R. F. Perham, F.J Carter & A.B Larsen attached to 9/3/18

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 31 Blk (Block) 3 - refer file 9/3/18

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 32 Blk (Block) III

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 2 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 2 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 3 Blk (Block) IV - no papers

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 4 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 4 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 5 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 5 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 6 & 7 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 7 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 8 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 8 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 8 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 9 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 10 Blk (Block) IV - no papers

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 11 & 12 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 11 & 12 Blk (Block) IV - Revested 15 June 2004 -
Now Awarua 4C9I

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 13 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 13 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 14, 15, 18, 19, 20 & 21 Blk (Block) IV

Potaka Native Township - Board File - Hautapu S.D. (Survey District) Pt (Part) Awarua 4C
Bk (Block)

Potaka Native Township - Valuations and Correspondence relating to the Renewals of leases
- 1923 Valuations on the top of file - 1900 Valuations - see Memo Aotea (Maori Land
Court) 15 - 5 - 1923 - Correspondence up to 31 - 12 - 1935

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 4 Blk (Block) 1 - 2A. 1R. 32P. - Lessee - Crown
Recreation Reserve

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 5 Blk (Block) 1 - 2A. 2R. 19P. - Lessee - Crown
Recreation Reserve

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 6 Blk (Block) 1 - 2A. 3R. 05P. - Lessee - School
Reserve Reserve

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 7 Blk (Block) 1 - 1R. 31P. - Lessee - Dog Pound
Reserve

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 14 Blk (Block) 1 - 1R. 00P - Lessee - Public Hall
Reserve

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 15 Blk (Block) 1 - 1R. 00P - Lessee - School
Reserve

Potaka Maori Township - Sec. (Section) 7 Blk (Block) 11 - 2R 00P - Public Buildings
Reserve

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 1 Blk (Block) 3 - 1A. OR. 07P - Transferred by
Board to Owners 17 - 12 - 1945

Potaka Native Township - Sec. (Section) 9 Blk (Block) 3 - 1R. 00P Lessee - Accomodation
House – Vacant

Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives

AJHR 1975, H-3, 'Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Maori Reserved Land'

Newspapers (From Papers Past)

Evening Post, 22 May 1905, 'A Settlers' Complaint' – Utiku unfair advantage over other towns [Torere].

Evening Post, 30 June 1908, 'Native Townships' – Maori/Pakeha – wish to sell freehold of Utiku.

Grey River Argus, 8 August 1910, 'Native Township Races' – Carroll re Crown purchase of Utiku.

Grey River Argus, 28 September 1909, 'Main Trunk Line' – need for secure tenure.

Manawatu Standard, 10 September 1904 – sawmilling Utiku.

Otago Witness, 30 October 1907, 'NZ Parliament' - recommendation of Native Affairs Committee re sale of Utiku Native Township land.

Poverty Bay Herald, 13 March 1906, 'A Huge Waste', - proposal to build main trunk line through Utiku.

Poverty Bay Herald, 7 October 1911, 'From Auckland to Wellington by Rail' – description of Utiku

Taranaki Herald, 31 August 1909, 'Main Trunk Line' - re use of township Act to secure land along the line for stations and sidings at Te Kuiti, Taumarunui, Utiku.

Wanganui Chronicle, 27 July 1910, 'Utiku Notes' – need to drain town.

Wanganui Chronicle, 31 October 1917, 'Cut Down a Tree' – deserted Utiku.

Wanganui Chronicle, 26 May 1910, 'Utiku Notes' - freehold of sections.

Wanganui Chronicle, 21 September 1909, 'The Rangitikei Election' – 'Utiku although a native township not a native in sight'.

Wanganui Chronicle, 3 January 1917 - example of sale of Utiku sections and terms.

Wanganui Herald, 20 June 1904, 'North Island Trunk Railway' – Torere versus Utiki re station.

Wanganui Herald, 26 July 1904, 'Local and General' – explanation of Utiku/Potaka name confusion and townships future prosperity.

Wanganui Herald, 22 July 1904, 'Political Notes' – poor condition of roads between Taihape and Utiku.

Wanganui Herald, 4 September 1905, 'Local and General' – dispute over ownership of Utiku.

Wanganui Herald, 2 July 1908, 'Utiku Native Township' – sale of freehold.

Wanganui Herald, 1 July 1908, 'Utiku Natives and Their Lands' - sale of freehold.

Alexander Library, Whanganui

'1897-1972, Utiku School: 75th Jubilee Souvenir, 26-28 February 1972

SECONDARY SOURCES

Boulton, Leanne, 'Native Townships in the Whanganui Inquiry District', Waitangi Tribunal Unit, 2004

Bassett, Heather and Richard Kay, 'The Impact of the Native Townships Act 1895 on the East Coast: Te Puia, Waipiro, Tuatini and Te Araroa Native Townships', Crown Forestry Rental Trust, March 2008

Bassett, Heather and Richard Kay, 'The Impact of the Native Townships Acts in Te Rohe Potae: Te Kuiti, Otorohanga, Karewa, Te Puru and Parawai Native Townships', Crown Forestry Rental Trust, 2011.