

Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust

Chairperson's Report

AGM 14 February 2020

Tēnā koutou katoa. Nei rā tuku mihi ki ngā uri, ki ngā hapū, ki ngā iwi o Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu. E mihi ana hoki ki a tātou tini aitua kei waenganui o tātou, nō reira, haere ki tua o te arai. Heoi anō, tēnā tātou katoa.

Yet another year has flown by us as we report on the Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust (the Trust) financial year from 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019.

Financial Accounts

Due to a number of factors, the financial audit for the year ended 30 September 2017 was delayed. This included the vacancy of the Claims Manager during the latter part of 2017, a change in auditor, a change in contracted personnel and the loss of time with availability of auditors over the December/January holiday period. Therefore:

- At the last AGM (March 2019) the Audited Financials for year ended September 2017 were reported.
- At this AGM (Feb 2020) Audited Financials for year ended September 2018 have recently been finalised and are being reported.
- At the next AGM we plan to set an AGM date in March of 2021 to allow processing time for the Accountants, Auditors and the Trust to aim to report against two financial years. Year ended September 2019 and year ended September 2020 accounts and thus rectifying the timing of audits and AGM reporting.

Direct Negotiations

As reported previously, we have been operating a dual process having initiated the direct negotiations process while working our way through the Waitangi Tribunal. This significant area of work is not currently funded by any government agency funding because the Crown (through Crown Forestry Rental Trust) currently funds the Trust to be involved in the Waitangi Tribunal process. As you would imagine this places significant pressure on our financial resources.

Just before Christmas of 2017, our Trust formally advertised the draft Mandate Strategy which outlines how the Trust intends to organise and prepare itself for the direct negotiations and

settlement process. At the last AGM we reported that we had hoped to gain mandate in early 2019.

In 2019 the Trust commissioned Independent Election Services to manage the Mandate Vote. The vote sought to seek a mandate for the Trust to enter into negotiations with the Crown for settlement and so in May 2019 the Trust advertised the draft Mandate Strategy.

In June 2019 the Trust completed six Mandate Hui presenting the draft Mandate Strategy. The Independent Election Officer Dale Ofoske of Independent Election Services attended every Mandate Hui to manage the polling booth and the process of distributing any special vote packs. The vote results were declared by the Election Officer on the 19 July 2020. Of those who cast eligible votes (946 votes), 80.13% were for (758 votes for) and 183 against. There were 5 blank votes cast.

On this result, the trust has worked with Te Arawhiti (previously the Office of Treaty Settlements) to prepare a draft Deed of Mandate. It is our hope that the draft Deed of Mandate will be advertised early in 2020 for further submissions after which the Minister for Treaty Settlements will determine if mandate is given to the Trust. The Trust is hoping that this confirmation will be obtained prior to the end of the current financial year (year ended September 2020).

Once mandate is achieved we can then move towards the direct negotiations phase.

Waitangi Tribunal

The re-scheduling of hearing weeks by the Tribunal delayed the number of hearings held during 2018/2019. However by the end of September 2019, the Trust has attend hearings, presented evidence, and cross-examined witnesses at 10 hearings.

There are a further four hearings Scheduled to occur in 2019/2020. It is anticipated that the final hearing will be held in August 2020 after which the Tribunal will adjourn to write its findings and recommendations.

The conclusion of hearings lines up close to the end of the Trust's financial and planning year. The Trust intends to exit the Waitangi Tribunal Operational Funding Stream through the Crown Forestry Rental Trust and if confirmation of mandate is achieved, will look to seek Direct Negotiations Funding through Crown Forestry Rental Trust.

The Trust Deed was reviewed in May 2019 to ensure there was consistency with the draft Mandate Strategy.

Tumu Mōkai Activities

As required in the Trust Deed the Trust confirms that the Tumu Mōkai position is currently held by Ike (Issac) Hunter and reports on the activities at the AGM. The Tumu Mōkai is a full trustee of Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust

The Trust is appreciative of the time given voluntarily by kaumatua Ike Hunter. The Tumu Mōkai has:

- Attended hearings held throughout 2017/2018/2019
- Represents the Trust on the paepae of pōwhiri related to the Waitangi hearings and Claims related hui
- Attended site visits requested by the Waitangi Tribunal specifically in 2019 this included the Waiouru Defence Lands
- Attended Trust Governance Committee meetings
- Attended various hui with government agencies including Te Arawhiti and CFRT

As we look ahead to closing off the Waitangi Tribunal process and moving into direct negotiations, I am reminded of the plea from Ngāti Tamakōpiri which has reverberated throughout Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu....

Whakahokia tōku whakapapa, tōku whenua, tōku whanaungatanga
Kia whakapiki tōku wairua
Return my identify my land and my relationships to uplift my spirit

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Utiku Potaka', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Utiku Potaka
Chairperson