



Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust
Chairperson's Report
AGM 19 March 2021

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.

On behalf of the Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust (the Trust), I am pleased to provide the Chairpersons Report for the financial year 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020. In doing so, I note the significant event of the Covid 19 Pandemic in early 2020 that impacted on our lives and ultimately the activities of the Trust.

There have been some changes in trusteeship with the resignations of Hari Benevides and Robert Martin who have dutifully served the Trust over the years. At the same time we welcome aboard Gloria Toheriri (Ngāi Te Ohuake) and Hemi Biddle (Ngāti Tamakōpiri). Ngā mihi kia koutou katoa.

Financial Comment

The end of year Performance Report (financial accounts) has been prepared and Silks Accountants have duly completed their audited report for the year end 30 September 2019. As reported last year, there were delays in completing the Audit so it is pleasing to see they this is being addressed. The Performance Reports including 30 September 2020 will be covered later on the agenda.

The Trust has incurred significant costs over the whole settlement process and in reality, funding from the Crown Forestry Rental Trust just isn't sufficient for to cover all the mahi we need to do nor does it support running a dual process of Waitangi Tribunal or Direct Negotiations processes.

We have relied heavily on financial advances from Land Trusts and Iwi entities whom we remain extremely grateful to. As the advances come up for review, We have attended Land Trust meetings to negotiate new terms and while there was objections from some landowners, I can confirm continued support from the Land Trusts with agreed variations to loan agreements being made.

Waitangi Tribunal

It has seen yet another busy schedule of hearings for the Waitangi Tribunal during the year with hearings held in Waiouru (March 2019), Moawhango (November 2019) and Omahu (February 2020). The Trust was particularly active in the two latter hearings as they covered Landlocked Lands and Gwavas/Kaweka Lands.

However the hearing schedule was interrupted by the Covid-19 lockdowns resulting in delayed hearings until November 2020. This has ultimately pushed out the final hearings at least 6 months and therefore they won't conclude until mid 2021.

Direct Negotiations

Our mahi in the direct negotiations space over the year has focused on seeking Mandate from the Crown. For that to happen, a number of steps are required to be completed in order the Ministers for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and Minister for Māori Development to recognise the Mandate of the Trust.

Since the successful outcome of the Mandate vote in June 2019 (80.13% in favour), the Trust has worked tirelessly with Te Arawhiti to prepare the draft Deed of Mandate. Yet another step in the process which has required the draft Deed of Mandate to be advertised and public submissions sought. We have also been pro-active in engaging with the Heritage Trust on this matter. After analysing submissions and finalizing the draft Deed of Mandate it has been submitted to Te Arawhiti for consideration by the responsible Ministers.

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 who has:

- Attended hearings
- Represents the Trust on the paepae of pōwhiri related to the Waitangi hearings and Claims related hui
- Attended Trust Governance Committee meetings

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead, I can confirm that as of 17 March 2021, Ministers Little and Jackson have recognised the mandate of the Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust. This is a huge achievement for the Trust and a significant turning point for Mōkai Pātea nui tonu as we can now proceed to direct negotiations.

It is timely to acknowledge all those directly involved and indirectly supporting the mandating process that has taken several years to complete. I am confident that we are in a strong position to drive through to settlement and address any challenges that lie ahead. Nōreira, ngā mihi ki a tatou katoa.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Utiku Potaka". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Utiku Potaka
Chairperson