

Talking Points for Monique King

– Queenstown hearing on Inclusionary Housing variation, 28 Feb 2024

- Tēnā koutou. Thank you for hearing us today. As Ms Dixon said, I am Monique King.
- I'm a Senior Advisor at the Office for Māori Crown Relations, Te Arawhiti.
- Te Arawhiti is the Crown agency responsible for advising the Minister for Māori Crown Relations, and the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations.
- We're responsible for supporting the Crown to meet its Treaty of Waitangi settlement commitments, amongst other roles.
- The Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations is responsible for effecting transfer of the Hāwea/Wānaka Sticky Forest land under the Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement.
- In accordance with Section 15 of the Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement, the Māori Land Court is identifying the successors to the 50 tūpuna who were originally allocated land at The Neck in the late 1800s. These successors will be the beneficiaries to the Hāwea/Wānaka Sticky Forest land.
- The Māori Land Court has to-date identified over two thousand successors.
- Te Arawhiti administers the redress land, while it is held by the Crown in the interim.
- This is bespoke redress. In standard Treaty settlement, redress is committed to transfer to an entity at the iwi level for the benefit of all members of that iwi or large natural grouping. This redress however is specifically in favour of the descendants of SILNA beneficiaries who did not get the land committed to them back in the 1800s.
- Te Arawhiti does not administer other land in this way. And we would not normally be participating in district planning matters like this.
- But in this case, while the successors are being identified by the Māori Land Court, and the Crown holds this land for them, we are wanting to be proactive about the interests of the intended owners.
- In this case, clawing back some of the land or value derived from the land from the successors, or their successors, would be at odds with the intent of the land; in fulfilment of the 1906 SILNA legislation and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.
- I know that my fellow submitter Ms Tanya Stevens from Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu will speak to contextual history and intent of this particular land.
- I mention however the identified and pervasive barriers to owners of collectively owned Māori land deriving value from their land; noting the 2,000 plus successors are not an established collective with pre-existing shared capital or governance structures.
- I'm happy to take questions at the end with my fellow submitters, particularly if they relate to the status of the process to transfer of the land in question.
- I'd like to acknowledge Rik Tainui of Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu who is a Hāwea/Wānaka SILNA successor who is here with us today to tautoko our submissions.