

IWI CHAIRS FORUM HIGHLIGHTS 4 - 5 August 2016, Hopuhopu

WHAKATAU AND INTRODUCTION

Waikato-Tainui were the hosts of the Iwi Chairs Forum. Kaumātua Pokaia Nepia opened the hui with a whakatau at Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Chambers, Hopuhopu. Seventy-two iwi are now members of the forum and almost 200 iwi chairs, delegates, technicians and kaumātua were in attendance. A new structure was introduced for this hui, centred around four pou; Pou Tikanga, Pou Taiao, Pou Tangata and Pou Tahua. Highlights of the hui included the signing of the Children's Covenant, a commitment by iwi to protect and treasure our tamariki, as well as visits from five government Ministers.

BACKGROUND

The Iwi Chairs Forum meets four times a year. All chairs of iwi are able to participate and together they share information about matters of interest. In this way all iwi support each other.

From time to time the Iwi Chairs Forum will set up specialist membership groups (Iwi Leader Groups) to research and work on specific issues. The contents of this pānui emanate from those issue-based leadership groups.

For more information and a video about the Iwi Chairs Forum and Iwi Leader Group's please visit www.iwichairs.maori.nz



Opening Whakatau by Kaumātua Pokaia Nepia

POU TIKANGA

There was robust discussion about the burial of tūpāpaku, both ashes and bodies, being buried at sea. Ngāti Kahu has been concerned about burials at sea in its rohe after the EPA authorised five new locations recently. The Iwi Chairs Forum recommended to include their concerns in the on-going constitutional review to ensure tikanga remains front of mind. The Iwi Chairs Forum also agreed to make it clear to the government that the disposal of tūpāpaku in the moana should cease until the approval of tangata whenua is gained.

POU TAI AO

A key kaupapa for Freshwater discussions was ensuring Mana Whakahono-a-rohe is included in the Resource Management Act (RMA). Mana Whakahono-a-rohe is a mechanism that will enable iwi to work collaboratively and make agreements with councils to manage local resource management issues and inform processes. Mana Whakahono will mean iwi have a louder and stronger voice in a wider range of environmental issues and increased clarity about their role in governance and decision making.

The forum agreed that all efforts should be made to ensure that any future resource management tools do not undermine the effectiveness of Mana Whakahono.



Iwi Chairs Forum, Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Chambers, Hopuhopu

He waka kōtuia kāhore e tukutukua ngā mimira.

A canoe that is interlaced will not become separated at the bow.



Signing of the Children's Covenant

POU TANGATA

The children's covenant was brought to Iwi Chairs by the Henwood Trust and was signed by Judge Carolyn Henwood, the Children's Commissioner Andrew Becroft and Iwi Chairs Naida Glavish, Tā Mark Solomon and Rahui Papa.

The Iwi Chairs are the first signatories of this covenant for our Nations Children. "This covenant recognises that to allow our children to thrive and stand strong at home in their communities and in the world, we need to take responsibility for our role in the lives of all children. To that end, we will be champions of our children and will act with integrity in our dealings with them and treat them fairly in all things to ensure that they receive justice.

Data has become a tradable commodity collected in real time everywhere including via mobile phone use, social media, apps and whenever you fill out a form. The Iwi Data ILG was formed at Waitangi in February 2016. During the Hopuhopu ICF the group provided an update on their work to date. They emphasised the need for better Iwi information. To achieve this the group want to ensure the Iwi Classification and Standard Review is completed by the Crown in time to be used in the 2018 Census and also in a form that can be implemented across the other government department collections. The group also confirmed the establishment of a formal Partnership Group with the Ministers of Finance, Statistics and Land Information.

POU TAHUA

The Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary was once again discussed. It was determined that Iwi Chairs Forum needs to have a collaborative and strong position regarding the sanctuary.

The following position was determined:

1. The Iwi Chairs Forum supports the establishment of the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary subject to recognition and protection of extant Māori rights within the FMA 10 as guaranteed by the 1992 Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries settlement.
2. The Iwi Chairs Forum sees the proposed Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary legislation, as it is currently proposed, as a confiscation of extant Māori rights and those protected under the 1992 Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries settlement. This approach, if continued, will create a legacy that will put all Treaty of Waitangi settlements at risk and may create contemporary legal claims.
3. The Iwi Chairs Forum support the approach of Te Ohu Kaimoana and seek a meeting with the Prime Minister and Lead Cabinet Ministers with the Conservation Iwi Leaders Group and Te Ohu Kaimoana to discuss and find an agreed outcome. Otherwise the Iwi Chairs Forum will challenge this issue on all fronts.



Tā Mark Solomon



Che Wilson and Minister Nick Smith



Minister Chris Finlayson

He waka kōtuia kāhore e tukutukua ngā mimira.

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