

SUMMARY OF MONIQUE KING

For the Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti

Submission to the Panel considering the landscape schedules variation – 7/11/2023

- Tēnā koutou.
- Thank you for hearing us today. I am Monique King. I'm a Senior Advisor at the Office for Māori Crown Relations, Te Arawhiti.
- Te Arawhiti means “the bridge”, and is the Crown agency responsible for supporting the Crown to meet its Treaty of Waitangi settlement commitments, amongst other roles.
- As identified by Ms Hill, the interest of Te Arawhiti in this district plan variation, relates to our role in administering the ‘Hāwea/Wānaka Substitute Land’, an estimated half of which is overlaid by the Dublin Bay Outstanding Natural Landscape.
- This 50-hectare block of land – known locally as Sticky Forest – was vested in the Crown on the Ngāi Tahu settlement date in 1998. Under the Treaty settlement the land remains vested in the Crown pending transfer to the intended owners, being the modern-day successors to 50 tūpuna identified in 1895.
- Te Arawhiti, along with Te Puni Kōkiri and officers of the Māori Land Court, are working to implement the steps under the Ngāi Tahu Deed towards transfer of the redress land.
- The role of Te Arawhiti in administering this redress land in the mean-time includes the payment of rates and engagement of a forestry manager.
- Te Arawhiti does not administer other redress land in this way. And we would normally not be participating in a district planning matter like this. But in this case, while the successors are being identified by the Māori Land Court, and pending the other steps in the Ngāi Tahu Deed to transfer, the Crown effectively holds this land on trust for the successors.
- Te Arawhiti wants to be proactive about the interests of the intended owners in this situation, especially since a mandated representative for the successors has not yet been established.
- We want to make sure that:
 - the intended owners have options to be able to use this redress land, once it is returned to them; and that
 - the values ascribed to this land, reflect its purpose as Treaty settlement redress and fulfilment of Crown SILNA obligations.
- Thank you for your time. Happy to take questions.