

Queenstown Lakes District Council, Landscape Schedules
Tanya Stevens, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu: Summary of Evidence

Tēnā koutou,

Ko Tanya Stevens ahau. My role is Senior Policy Advisor, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (Te Rūnanga).

The Hāwea/Wānaka block, also known as Sticky Forest, has its origins in the colonisation of New Zealand. Between 1844-1864 ten major land purchases were negotiated by the Crown with Ngāi Tahu. Contractual agreements made between parties were not honoured, and Ngāi Tahu was left largely landless.

Investigations, of varying rigor and effort, were undertaken by Crown agents between 1886 and 1905 which identified the landlessness issue amongst Ngāi Tahu, and also the fundamental effect that that had on the tribe. Ngāi Tahu relied not just on ownership of land itself, but the ability to access and use resources to support economic and social well-being. Ultimately, it placed Ngāi Tahu people in a state of severe poverty.

The South Island Landless Natives Act 1906 provided a means for title to allocated land blocks to be transferred to landless "natives". Nearly all blocks were transferred except four, one being the Hāwea/Wānaka block.

The four outstanding blocks were included in the Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement 1997 and a process for the transfer of those blocks to successors of beneficial owners set out.

The Hāwea/Wānaka block was originally located at Manuhaea/"The Neck" (Orokotewhatu). That land was not available at the time of settlement, as such Sticky Forest was identified as a replacement block.

When Hāwea/Wānaka-Sticky Forest is transferred to Successors to Beneficial Owners it is essential that it is in a meaningful form. Ms Pull will discuss in greater detail planning solutions to ensure that landscape matters do not unnecessarily constrain future use of Hāwea/Wānaka-Sticky Forest.

I welcome any questions.