

Office of Hon Te Ururoa Flavell

Mema Pāremata mō Waiariki
Member of Parliament for Waiariki

Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori
Minister for Māori Development

Te Minita Whānau Ora
Minister for Whānau Ora

Te Minita Tuarua Whanaketanga Ohaoaha
Associate Minister for Economic Development



20 JUL 2015

Anne Hunt and Phillip Taueki

Tēnā kōrua Anne and Phillip

Otirā ko ngā whakamaunga kanoahi o roto i ngā rā kua hinga atu, nā koutou i poroporoaki, nā mātou i mihi ko te tatau o te pō e noho puare tonu ana. E kore e taea e tāua te tūtaki. Waiho tonu ki te kōrero, ko ngā whetū o te ao Māori kua whakawhenuatia, ko ngā kupu whakatau e tū tonu ana. Nō reira he muka tangata i motuhia, he muka tangata kua herea anō. Kāti ki tēnā.

Thank you for your letters of 28 February and 1 May 2015. I apologise for the delay in replying to your original letter. The reason for the delay was that I asked my officials to look into both the scope for action under section 29 of the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 and also the underlying Lake Horowhenua issues in some detail, and advise me about those issues and the options for addressing them.

I believe that I now have a broad understanding of the very complex ownership, governance, access, use arrangements, and rights that apply to Lake Horowhenua. There are certainly a number of interests in the picture and I can understand how these arrangements have generated conflicts, going right back into the early 1900s and earlier.

I can also understand the viewpoint of those that question the appropriateness of the historical and the current arrangements. They appear to me to be arrangements that we would not put in place today. At the same time, I need to acknowledge the reality that the history has created certain rights both within the Muaūpoko iwi and also between Muaūpoko and others.

I believe that a section 29 referral is one of a number of options worth considering, but there are other options as well. I have asked my officials to liaise with the Department of Conservation and also to factor in the Porirua ki Manawatu District Inquiry and the Crown's Treaty settlement negotiations with Muaūpoko which will inevitably touch on these ownership, governance, access, and use issues.

Finding solutions to the current issues and problems will need careful work over a period of time, and will require the involvement of all Muaūpoko groups, including the Lake Horowhenua Trust and owners and the Muaūpoko Tribal Authority, the Domain Board, the Horowhenua District Council and the Horizons Regional Council. The involvement of the two of you would also be

Pūrangi Motuhake 18041, Te Whare Pāremata, Te Whanganui-ā-Tara 6160, Aotearoa
Waea 64 4 817 6824 Waea Whakaahua 64 4 817 6524

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand
Telephone 64 4 817 6824 Facsimile 64 4 817 6524

required in relation to any initiatives, such as a section 29 hearing, that have arisen out of litigation that you have been involved in.

It will also require involvement of myself and Te Puni Kōkiri (responsible for Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 and section 29 referrals) and the Minister and Department of Conservation (responsible for the legislation that applies to Lake Horowhenua).

I have asked Te Puni Kōkiri to explore the options with the Department of Conservation and with the Office of Treaty Settlements as required, and report back to me. This will take a little time. Either I or one of the agencies will contact you in future about what options might be viable and what role your organisation might play.

I have written in similar terms to the Lake Horowhenua Trust, the Muaūpoko Tribal Authority, the Domain Board, the Horowhenua District Council and the Horizons Regional Council.

I hope that this gives you some confidence that I am willing to assist as best I can, but for various reasons it will take time. That should not stop us. If you have any feedback please contact Chris McKenzie in my office and we will assist where we can. His contact details are phone (04) 817 9640 and chris.mckenzie@parliament.govt.nz. Noho ora mai rā.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Te Ururoa Flavell
Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori