Ngai Tahu STATUTORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Information for Resource Consent Applicants

Introduction

The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (the Settlement Act) gives effect to the Deed of Settlement signed by the Crown and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu on 21 November 1997 to achieve a final settlement of Ngāi Tahu's historical claims against the Crown.

The Settlement Act includes a new instrument called a Statutory Acknowledgement. Statutory Acknowledgements recognise Ngāi Tahu's mana in relation to a range of sites and areas in the South Island, and provide for this to be reflected in the management of those areas. Statutory Acknowledgements impact upon Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) processes concerning these areas.

This flyer provides a brief outline of Statutory Acknowledgements, and how they may affect you, as an applicant for a resource consent. The information provided in this flyer relates only to Statutory Acknowledgements under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

What are Statutory Acknowledgements?

A Statutory Acknowledgement is an acknowledgement by the Crown of Ngāi Tahu's special relationship with identified areas, namely Ngāi Tahu's particular cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association with those areas (known as statutory areas). The statutory areas are indicated on the attached map.

Information relating to specific Statutory Acknowledgements will be attached to regional policy statements, district plans and regional plans.

What are the Purposes of Statutory Acknowledgements?

The purposes of Statutory Acknowledgements are:

- to ensure that Ngāi Tahu's particular association with certain significant areas in the South Island are identified, and that Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu is informed when a proposal may affect one of these areas
- to improve the implementation of RMA processes, in particular by requiring consent authorities to have regard to Statutory Acknowledgements when making decisions on the identification of affected parties.

Who may be Affected by Statutory Acknowledgements?

You may be affected by a Statutory Acknowledgement if you are applying for a resource consent for an activity that is within, adjacent to, or impacting directly upon a statutory area.

What Happens When You Apply?

If you are applying for a resource consent for an activity within, adjacent to, or impacting directly upon a statutory area:

- the consent authority must send a summary of your resource consent application to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
- the consent authority must have regard to the Statutory Acknowledgement in going through the process
 of making a decision on whether Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu is an affected party in relation to the resource
 consent application.

Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) Reports

For proposals that may significantly adversely affect Ngāi Tahu's cultural values and association with Statutory Acknowledgement areas, further information may be sought from applicants in the form of a cultural impact assessment (CIA) report.

Use of Statutory Acknowledgements in Submissions

Members of Ngāi Tahu will also be able to cite Statutory Acknowledgements in submissions to consent authorities, the Environment Court and the Historic Places Trust, as evidence of their particular association with statutory areas. In this context, the Statutory Acknowledgement does not of itself prove the association for the purpose of consent proceedings but may be taken into account by decision-makers.

More Information

You can obtain further information on Statutory Acknowledgements from:

- Your local council
 - Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
 Kaupapa Taiao
 Level 1, Te Wai Pounamu House
 158 Hereford Street
 PO Box 13-046, Christchurch
 Phone 03-366 4344, Fax 03-366 4267
- Ministry for the Environment South Island Office
 Price Waterhouse Centre
 119 Armagh Street
 PO Box 1345, Christchurch
 Phone 03-963 0940, Fax 03-963 2050
 www.mfe.govt.nz

Statutory Acknowledgements – Deeds of Recognition

