



MP for Hauraki-Waikato

Minister for Māori Development

Minister of Local Government

Associate Minister for the Environment

30 JUL 2018

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment
Parliament Buildings

Tēnā koe David

Hau karioi ki Raukawa Moana, hau ai noa ki Te Whanganui ā Tara. Whātoro whakararo atu, whakaneinei atu, whakatetonga. Nei rā aku mihi; tēnei ka hāro atu, tēnā ka hāro mai.

Taiope noa te au o aituā, te aupounamu ki te Honoiwairua. Taiea noa ko tātau i muri nei, hāpai ake ai, i te pūkainga kaupapa i waihotia mai.

Thank you for the opportunity to consider the proposed staged approach to resource management and planning system reform from the perspective of my Māori Development and Local Government portfolios.

First stage RMA reform

I support your proposals for a Resource Management Amendment Bill to be introduced in 2018. They will address a number of my concerns around the 2017 RMA amendments that could adversely impact public participation and local decision-making. In particular, I support reducing the limitations that the 2017 RMA amendments placed on notification and appeals, and removing powers established in the 2017 RMA amendments that may undermine local decision-making. I also support improving the compliance and enforcement mechanisms in the RMA.

Second stage RMA reform

I support that all reform to the resource management system must uphold Part 2 of the RMA, provide for local decision-making and public participation opportunities, and achieve good environmental outcomes.

I consider that any future reform to the resource management and planning system should take the opportunity to provide better outcomes and opportunities for whānau, hapū, iwi, and Māori communities and businesses.

Please find below a list of issues and opportunities associated with Māori interests in the resource management system which you could consider as part of the second stage RMA reform.

General environmental issues

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| 1. | Ensuring that Māori have a more effective and influential role in the resource management and planning system that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Recognises and provides for their role as kaitiakib. Provides for partnership arrangements between Māori and other agencies in the management of natural and physical resourcesc. Ensures active protection of resources and areas of cultural significance to Māori. |
| 2. | Addressing planning and consenting barriers to building on Māori land: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Many councils do not specifically provide for papakāinga in their district plans. This could be a requirement through a range of optionsb. District plans have differing frameworks and rules for Māori which are difficult for whānau, hapū and iwi to interpret and comply with, and some are overly restrictivec. Lack of expertise among some council officers to effectively engage with Māori when making decisions that affect how Māori land can be used. |
| 3. | Assessing the role and status of iwi management plans in the context of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and other partnership agreements in a post-settlement context. |
| 4. | Clarifying the term iwi authority in the RMA and how the Crown supports local authorities to determine who are the appropriate iwi authorities within their region or district. |
| 5. | More effective implementation of the clear directives in sections 6(e), 7(a) and 8 of the RMA to recognise and provide for Māori interests through policy statements, plans and decisions on resource consents. |
| 6. | Ensuring the planning system is agile, effective and equitable in providing for Māori interests and responding to future states, including changing water rights, interests and allocations; changing biodiversity values; and the transition to a low carbon economy. |

Whenua Māori environmental issues

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| 7. | Greater recognition of rangatiratanga in the planning system. Ensuring Māori can use their land for their own purposes. Need to balance any increase in environmental regulation with the need to provide rangatiratanga in accordance with Te Tiriti o Waitangi. There should be no increase in regulation and restrictions on Māori land but rather the existing barriers need to be removed. |
| 8. | Ensuring the planning system complements the Whenua Māori work programme to enable Māori landowners to use their land how they wish. |

Whānau Wellbeing and Māori Growth environmental issues

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| 9. | Reviewing development contribution applicability and potential exclusions for papakāinga developments and other developments on Māori land. |
| 10. | Addressing overlaps in the land development system which frustrate and/or slow whānau or rōpū land developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Better alignment and certainty when applying for resource consents (or other permits) from different authoritiesb. Better alignment and certainty between the resource and building consent processes. |

I look forward to discussing these issues and opportunities for the second stage RMA reform further with you. Ngā mihi nui ki a koe.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori

Proactively released