

Ministry of Fisheries
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Mr Raniera Tau
Chairman
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KAIKOHE

Tena koe Sonny

INPUT AND PARTICIPATION OF TANGATA WHENUA IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. I refer to your letters of 31 August and 18 September 2006. First let me address that matters you have raised regarding the Ministry's views on providing for the input and participation of mid north hapu and iwi into fisheries sustainability processes.
2. As I stated in my letter to all the representatives of mid North hapu and iwi who attended the meeting in Whangarei on 30 June 2006, my understanding from our discussions was that there is a diversity of views among the governance entities on the best approach to provide for input and participation into the Ministry's sustainability processes.
3. A significant number of hapu and iwi representatives were of the view that the primary relationship should be between individual governance entities and the Ministry rather than through a single Iwi Forum, while not ruling out the possibility of Maori organisations working together with the Ministry in some areas. Specific concerns were raised over the balance that would be required where the Ministry already has protocols with governance entities that have arisen through the settlement of historical treaty grievances.
4. I expressed my understanding of the views put at the meeting in my letter of 19 July 2006 to all hapu and iwi representatives who attended that meeting. I have not had any response from other hapu and iwi representatives that my understanding is not correct.
5. In my letter of 19 July I set out the Ministry's view on an approach that could provide for better input and participation of hapu and iwi into fisheries sustainability processes. This approach was to use smaller working groups of tangata whenua and

Ministry staff to develop and implement commonly agreed work programmes to research, identify, develop and promote iwi fisheries management objectives into the Ministry led fisheries plans and other sustainability processes. I also stated that the working group approach could identify where hapu and iwi would choose to work collectively with the Ministry and where an individual relationship better met an entities requirement for input and participation within the constraints of the Ministry's resources.

6. In your letter of 20 June 2006, and again in your letter of 31 August, you stated that the Hokianga Accord was an Iwi Regional Forum of mid Te Tai Tokerau comprising Ngapuhi, Ngati Whatua and Ngati Wai. Your stated view did not recognise that the Ministry's obligation to provide for input and participation also apply to hapu. In general, the Ministry seeks to provide for hapu through iwi structures. However, in the case of mid Te Tai Tokerau, the government and Ministry have Treaty obligations to Te Uri O Hau and Te Roroa that require their governance entities to directly input and participate into fisheries sustainability processes. The view stated in your letters that the Hokianga Accord was an Iwi Forum was not supported by all the representatives of the governance entities at the 30 June meeting. I have not had any approaches from those representatives to indicate a change of view.

7. You have indicated the importance of mid Te Tai Tokerau leaders meeting again to advance the option for providing for input and participation of hapu and iwi into fisheries sustainability processes. You have also indicated your concerns regarding the timeframes that might be involved in developing iwi objectives to feed into fisheries plans and have identified the need for ways iwi to continue to have input into sustainability processes in the interim. I share your view that it is important for us all to meet again. I consider that the issues you have raised are matters that should be discussed at our next meeting. My staff are currently working to organise another meeting of the representatives of the governance entities in the next few days to find a suitable time for us to meet again.

8. In respect of the current operation of the Hokianga Accord, I have made it quite clear that the Ministry and a significant number of representatives of hapu and iwi in mid Te Tai Tokerau do not as yet consider that body to be a Regional Forum. In my view I thought it was clear from our discussions with all parties at the 30 June meeting that the Ministry would only expend funds for input and participation on activities that were agreed to by all the governance entities in mid Te Tai Tokerau.

9. In my letter to you of 19 July, in response to your invitation to attend the hui called by the Hokianga Accord for Naumai Marae, I also made it clear that it would not be appropriate for the Ministry to fund that, or any other meeting called by the Hokianga Accord, from resources that Government has allocated to provide for the input and participation by tangata whenua. I had my letter e-mailed to you on 19 July to ensure you were fully aware of the Ministry's position before that hui. I am concerned that despite the Ministry's view being clearly stated, you have sought to commit the Ministry to expend public monies in this manner.

10. I have received the panui for the next meeting of the Hokianga Accord called for 2 and 3 November at Whakapaumahara Marae. I want to make it quite clear that the Ministry will not fund the costs of this hui.

11. While the Ministry does not consider the hui to be a meeting of a Regional Forum and cannot fund it, we are prepared to come to your hui and to provide information on the matters set out in the agenda, where the Ministry is able to do so. My staff will contact you closer to the time to discuss which items on the agenda we will be able to address. As always, the Ministry will provide a koha to the marae.

12. I look forward to meeting you again in Whangarei to develop with other leaders in the Mid-North a model for input and participation that best achieves all the governance entities objectives.

Noho ora mai
Naku noa
Na

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Deputy Chief Executive

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