



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

docCM 6373314

24 August 2020

Gail Amaru
General Manager
Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust
PO Box 50 | Wharekauri | Chatham Islands 8942 | Aotearoa
generalmanager@nmow.co.nz

Tena koe Gail

Taia Vesting

I am writing to you to follow up on the conversation between yourself and Tom McClurg, Carl Baker, Tryphena Cracknell and myself on 10 July 2020, regarding the vesting of Taia.

Thank you for your time to discuss this matter.

I advised you that I would take the matters you raised and would discuss with my colleagues, in particular the view expressed by Tom and yourself that the Minister Sage's decision to re-notify Nick Smith's 2003 Ministerial Intention to Vest is pre-determinative.

The process around vesting of Reserves is as set out in the Reserves Act 1977. Before the Minister vests a reserve under section 26 of the Act, she must give public notice of the intention to vest (there are exceptions to this). That is the step we are at. There has been no decision by the Minister to vest the land.

The previous Minister, in consultation with the Chatham Islands Reserve Board, considered that a public notification process should be followed, and the same applies to the re-notification of the intention to vest. Such a public notification process requires the Minister to give full consideration to any relevant objections and submissions before vesting the reserve.

I note that in her letter to Ngati Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust 26 June 2020, the Minister advises; *"Given the length of time that has passed since the proposed vesting was first notified, the conclusion of the related litigation, and in the interest of an open and transparent process, I have decided it would be reasonable and appropriate to offer a further opportunity for objections and submissions before determining the vesting. As such, I intend to re-notify the intention to vest."* (my emphasis)

As discussed, I will update you when I have a clear timeframe for placing the public notice'. In the meantime, the Minister would be pleased to receive from you, as outlined in her letter to you, any further detailed information on the values associated with Taia for

her consideration. I understood from our conversation that Tom was compiling some material by way of response. This information could also be provided by way of submission through the notification process.

I fully appreciate that Ngati Mutunga o Wharekauri have expressed objections and preferences in respect of the vesting of Taia via various avenues. You clearly articulated a number of these to me in our conversation last week. I would encourage you to make any continuing objections known through the submissions process, so that the Minister can give full consideration to these.

Naku noa, na

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CV', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Visser
Statutory Manager, Lower North Island
0272 5634631 | cvisser@doc.govt.nz