

## **SUMMARY OF MONIQUE KING - For the Panel considering PPC54 – 25 July 2023**

- Tēnā koutou. Mānawatia a Matariki!
- Thank you for hearing us today. I am Monique King. I'm a Senior Advisor at the Office for Māori Crown Relations, Te Arawhiti.
- Te Arawhiti means "the bridge", and is the Crown agency responsible for advising the Minister for Māori Crown Relations, and the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations.
- We're responsible for supporting the Crown to meet its Treaty of Waitangi settlement commitments, amongst other roles.
- The interest of Te Arawhiti in this private plan change, stems from our interest in the adjoining land – known locally as Sticky Forest – but in the Ngāi Tahu settlement, known as 'Hāwea/Wānaka Substitute Land'. As I have explained in my evidence, this adjoining land is redress which Te Arawhiti administers, whilst it is held by the Crown on an interim basis.
- The land was committed in 1997 to the modern-day successors to the original 50 tūpuna who were allocated land at 'The Neck' in the late 1800s, but who never received that land.
- Te Arawhiti, Te Puni Kōkiri, and officers of the Māori Land Court are working to implement the steps under the Ngāi Tahu Deed towards transfer of the redress land.
- In standard Treaty settlement, redress is committed to transfer to an entity at the iwi level for the benefit of all members of that iwi. However, this redress is specifically in favour of the descendants of the original beneficiaries who did not get the land committed to them back in the 1800s.
- That means there are specific individuals entitled to receive it, and that is why, there has been a long process in the Māori Land Court to identify those descendants, several generations later.
- Te Arawhiti does not administer other land in this way. And we would normally not be participating in a district planning matter like this. But in this case, while the successors are being identified by the Māori Land Court, and pending the other steps in the Ngāi Tahu Deed to transfer, the Crown effectively holds this land on trust for the successors.
- Te Arawhiti wants to be proactive about the interests of the intended owners in this situation, especially since a mandated representative for the successors has not yet been established.
- We want to make sure that the intended owners have options to be able to use this redress land, once it is returned to them.
- As I have explained in my evidence, this redress land is currently landlocked. It is an obvious point, that if the land has no legal access, any option for use by the landowner is severely limited. This includes the act of simply wanting to visit the land. At this time, the landowner can only do that by walking over adjoining reserve.
- Private Plan Change 54 will properly connect this redress land with the road and infrastructure network. That basic access is essential to support meaningful use of the land.
- Thank you for your time. Happy to take questions.