

## Auckland Hui - 25 June 2019

**NB: These meeting notes record the verbal comments of meeting attendees. The comments were not fact-checked before being recorded here. The comments do not represent the views of the review team or the Ministry for Primary Industries.**

### Has anyone used the Act?

- Ric Cullinane [New Zealand Walking Access Commission Chief Executive]: Problem that there is no treaty partnership clause. Case by case basis for engaging with Māori eg Overseas Investment Act cases where iwi or hapū have interests or are adjoining the land. Or if working with wider groups, eg facilitating regional work with DOC for councils.
- NZWAC's Auckland/Tāmaki Makaurau Regional Field Advisor: Te Araroa Trail – not all of this is navigable. The Walking Access Commission engages with local kaitiaki eg, about gateway problems – for example, a path gate was too narrow for horses. The covenant prohibited access by horse.
- NZWAC's Auckland/Tāmaki Makaurau Regional Field Advisor: Kaitiaki have been left with problems, eg visitors want to fill water bottles along a route – this has meant demand on kaitiaki's tank water. This was OK at a couple of visitors a week, but is now constant. Could provide signage and draw local government attention to need for signage when Treaty Settlement done, as there is no advice on ground about providing information about it. Now, iwi are being left as kaitiaki, especially for old forest land.
- Iwi: We don't have expertise about how to manage forestry changes. We put up signs but they are ripped down, or people do damage for example. People are used to using the area because their family has been there for generations.
- NZWAC's Auckland/Tāmaki Makaurau Regional Field Advisor: the Crown needs to look at what to do about this.
- Iwi: The forest adjoins [name of beach] – traditionally used to access the beach. We want help to know how to manage it. We don't have the understanding about how to manage, who to go through, what parts of legislation to draw on. Iwi wants to be able to share access, but it has to be controlled. For example, hunting – we're frightened about health and safety. We fear health and safety advice provided is not right.
- Could work with WAC re how to manage.

### Leith Comer [Review Panel Member]: So is there a role for facilitating for Māori?

- Ric Cullinane: Without being in Act, it is hard to prioritise – we generally react.
- Iwi: Where lands have been returned that have been public access, there should be something put in at that stage to enable this. With Maunga Atuanui – degradation had happened prior to the Treaty Settlement, so we had to put in own instruments ... put in a rāhui.
- Unless you can enforce and act upon it...there [it won't work]...should have been adjunct to Act for management of special places – not give it back with deficit.
- Iwi: We have had relationship with farmers over 25 years.
- Iwi: Not to give money for Treaty Settlements is wrong. Treaty Settlements should reflect the principles in the Resource Management Act. They must provide for relationships re tīpuna, wāhi tapu and water, and help kaitiaki to enforce Section 7 and Section 8. Money is needed for this.

Most of the trails are round the coast, where you'll find these sites – it's a huge cultural landscape. There is a problem with access to the river and dunes, which public access destroys, eg flakes from processes. People know nothing about spiritual concerns, are taking things they shouldn't.

- Iwi: Refer in the Act to care for value for Māori – this would be better than a general Treaty Settlement statement. But definitely put the Treaty in so there can be a proper partnership.
- Iwi: Access is the best way to get cultural and social gains.

**Leith Comer: What is the role of the Walking Access Commission, and what's needed in the Act to do this?**

- DOC does it without being specified in the Act
- WAC could do if mandated and given funding.
- Ric Cullinane: We don't currently have the legislative ability to manage tracks.
- Nothing re working on the ground, eg with [place].
- People default with not going out for help, and don't know about the Walking Access Act, which means there is a level of ignorance. We need to educate enough to have people use places they can, starting with signs.
- Ric Cullinane: The best way to be educated about land is by being there, learning that you need to behave in particular ways and get absorbed into culture.
- Iwi: We are looking at planning, working with DOC and local government, rather than WAC. Whānau is interested in getting good access, for example, for kaumātua. Even if this happens, the public will try to access this, and we will have enforcement problems.
- Our App tells stories and people walk through the landscape to uncover these stories. Currently we're working with the Commission, DOC, and local government - getting advice – how can people navigate the system better?
- Ric Cullinane: WAC adds value by breadth of stride, and lightness, so can be trusted. None of the organisations can do anything on their own. DOC and council don't talk to each other, local government parts don't talk to each other. WAC can provide common understanding, advice, mapping, tools for managing. Working with all the parties together, including community groups eg, horse-riding.
- Is local government or other going to know who WAC is, when suggesting partnership approach.
- Issue of mana needs be addressed. Mana about technology is there, but not other.
- Two iwi work more with people who have money.
- Ric Cullinane: Need to demonstrate demand – need to get the parties to say it is important, including for health. Huge successes in Hawkes Bay, Franklin – all a result of compromising.
- Leith Comer: Iwi has not used DOC as they control the numbers, rather than the iwi. Weren't enough instruments – easement meant they would lose attachment to their land - a sense of giving up land.
- What can WAC do for Māori land? Need to be incentives to provide land eg, economic development or other, such as engaging young people. Also iwi need the ability to control. Unable to give full authority for owners of land to have full authority. Would need to have iwi as kaitiaki as partnership – in owned or non-owned land. Need to be funded to help, as iwi have lots of debt.

- Iwi: We would like access to maunga. Could covenant land for further titles – could exchange titles for wāhi tapu.
- Iwi: Use paper roads to improve access.
- Ric Cullinane: Some paper roads are mountain goat territory, but they can be used as a bargaining chip. However, do have to work with forests re safety. With trucks on road, there is a lot of work to be done about archaeology.
- Telling stories is important, tying into mātauranga Māori as people work through the spaces they can see where there are important sites.
- Iwi: need to increase disabilities access. Look at universal desire, not one size.
- Iwi: Have advocacy by commission to have others commit. Are brilliant opportunities – the Commission has a communication role – including digitising, given Pākehā and tourists don't know much about Māori.
- Māori need something to draw them to paths. A lot of Māori don't know this information. There's a need to get communications out to people with low incomes.
- Ric Cullinane: The act needs to articulate partnership, good mechanism for iwi and other groups to have real kaitiaki. Legislation needs to ask WAC to provide access for iwi.
- Priorities for special sites. Needs to ask to prioritise traditional kai sites, vehicle access to special sites for kaumātua.
- Focus on minority groups, because that improves things for all.
- It's a problem that Māori cultural heritage hasn't been managed over time. Knowledge lies with mana whenua, so there has to be procedure so that kaitiakitanga can happen.
- Done big project on Māori cultural landscapes. Some foundation stones may be needed in the Act eg, Māori places, tikanga. Need to manage access using knowledge where it's held. Project is engaging with 19 mana whenua. The purpose is to help apply management mechanisms. The project can work together with WAC on this. Make sure changes to Act line up with key values and stories to deliver best Act. Work also has to align.
- Takeaway – now attendees see possibilities for WAC, a little bit more focus and teeth for advocacy for Māori to line up with what people are wanting.