

Maori Hui

Consultation Meeting Reports

Seven regional and one national hui were held in May 2002 as part of the Government's consultation on its preferred policy package. Many of the matters raised and views expressed were commonly held views which were repeated at hui around the country. They have therefore been reported collectively in the summary below.

Underpinning much of the discussion was strong acknowledgement that the impact of climate change could not be left unattended. There was widespread support for action to preserve the eco-system and protect land use. In giving feedback on the policies, Maori were also keen to explore the opportunities that the proposed policies might provide.

Regional Hui Locations	Date
Christchurch	22 May 2002
Gisbourne	29 May 2002
Kaikohe	30 May 2002
New Plymouth	14 May 2002
Rotorua	15 May 2002
Invercargill	20 May 2002
Wellington	24 May 2002
National Hui Location	Date
Rotorua	31 May 2002

Facilitator	Ani Waaka, Ontos Consulting
Climate Change Policy Staff involved	Bryan Smith, Principal Policy Advisor Agriculture and Forestry, New Zealand Climate Change Project Murray Ward, Principal Policy Advisor, New Zealand Climate Change Project Dave Hoskins, Policy Analyst, New Zealand Climate Change Project
Climate Change Maori Taskforce members involved	Tikitu Tutua-Nathan, Director Maori Strategy, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Debra Packman, Senior Policy Analyst, Te Puni Kokiri Robert Kaiwai, Senior Policy Officer Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Riki Ellison, Manager, Maruwhenua, Ministry for the Environment Tack Daniel, Policy Analyst, Maruwhenua, Ministry for the Environment

Issues raised and discussed during the hui

Treaty of Waitangi
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The special relationship between tangata whenua and the Crown as acknowledged by the Treaty of Waitangi must be reflected in the way in which the Crown interacts with tangata whenua. The discussion document is silent on the Treaty of Waitangi and yet the policies directly affect land use and property rights.

- There was concern about and some opposition to the Government retaining ownership of the forestry sink credits, in particular that there had still been no discussion with the Treaty partner about what some consider to be an Article 2 right reserved under the Treaty.
- There was also discussion about the wider sustainability, biosecurity and kaitiakitanga issues.

Waitangi Tribunal Claims

- There was comment from several quarters that it was difficult to consider the implications of the preferred policies when land ownership claims were as yet undecided by the Waitangi Tribunal.
- A request that the Crown consider and take into account the impact of climate change policy on WAI 262. This claim to intellectual property ownership of flora and fauna is currently under consideration by the Waitangi Tribunal. The request sought to ensure that any policy that promotes land use change must fully understand the impact on indigenous flora and fauna, including unintended consequences.

Partnership

- Tangata whenua believe partnership to come from a position of equality with the Crown. There was a strongly expressed view that tangata whenua should be included in and be able to contribute to the process of policy development, while it was in the process of being developed.
- There was concern expressed that consultation was often merely an exchange of information and views, rather than true consultation in the spirit of Treaty partnership, and that tangata whenua should have been more involved/consulted in the decision on ratification itself.
- There was a request that tangata whenua play a role in the agricultural research group.
- Concern was expressed that there was no Ministerial or chief executive presence at the national hui (this was regarded as a sign that the Crown was not serious about partnership).

Process

- There was a general feeling that consultation did not allow tangata whenua enough time to consider the Protocol or the preferred policy package (not enough notice was given of the hui, there was not enough time to absorb the information distributed prior to the hui, and the hui were too short)

Public Awareness and Education

- Suggestions were made that there should be a comprehensive information and communication programme for tangata whenua to enable better understanding of the policies and an increased ability to give more informed feedback.
- A request was made for more national hui.

Feedback from specific policy discussion

Projects

- Generally positive, although some concern expressed about the administrative costs of establishing and maintaining the bureaucracy and structure, both for Projects and for NGAs.
- Projects suggested included bioenergy, waste, and wind farms.

- Participants were also interested to know what other opportunities might be available.

Carbon Charge and Revenue Recycling

- Concerns were raised about the ‘double jeopardy’ nature of being subjected to the carbon charge but not gaining the credits from carbon sinks.
- Suggestions for recycling of the revenue from the carbon charge included: environmental improvement, compensation for foresters and regional distribution commensurate with the proportion of forests in each region. There was also a strongly expressed view that a portion of sinks revenue should be put into a variety of projects for tangata whenua.
- The effect on competitiveness was a concern. Tangata whenua main assets are in primary production and any increase in indirect costs would impact greatly on them because of the types of processing industries engaged in – forestry and potentially, agriculture, in particular.

Agriculture

- There was general satisfaction at the Government’s decision not to impose liabilities for agricultural emissions of methane and nitrous oxide.
- The ‘double jeopardy’ issue was raised again here; some farmers have planted trees, will not obtain sink credits but would be subject to the mooted agriculture research levy and paying extra fuel costs.
- It was felt that some form of recognition could be given to trees on farms and that farmers could be encouraged to plant trees along riparian strips.
- Comments were made about the imbalance between pakeha farmers who could sell their land and tangata whenua who cannot, and of the marginal nature of a lot of Maori-owned land.
- A strong request was made that climate change policies should be developed with due care taken not to disadvantage Maori already grappling with issues including low social economic status, marginal land ownership, and multiple ownership of land

Forestry

- There was some ongoing concern regarding the Crown’s proposal to retain sink credits and harvest liabilities (see “Treaty of Waitangi” section above). However, a number of participants accepted that the decision to retain credits allowed the Government to implement a more transitional policy package which made possible the proposal to exclude agricultural emissions and remove the arbitrary distinction between pre- and post-1990 forests.
- There was a lot of concern about the lack of clarity about indigenous forests as sinks.
- Sustainable management of indigenous forests was proposed, with a request that this be considered and debated at some future time.
- For some the sink credits were seen as a way of attracting more forestry investment. Some wanted to see the sinks used as incentives and there was a desire to see incentives offered to enhance existing forests (eg assistance with pest control).
- There was concern over the existence of hurdles or financial obstacles to changing land use. In particular, the imposition of any deforestation liability was considered a major concern for many landowners.
- There was interest expressed in the concept of more joint venture arrangements with government, but some skepticism about having government as a business partner.

- There was high interest in possible returns from regenerating scrub, but caution flagged about the need to choose the right land. It was felt that scrub might be able to be sustainably harvested in the future.
- There was interest in the extension of existing voluntary mechanisms to encourage the retirement of marginal land (eg Nga Whenua Rahui)
- There was little support for direct planting subsidies with the possible exception being refinements to the East Coast Forestry Project.