In the matter of the proposed National Environmental Standard - for plantation forestry

Rotorua Workshop 26th May 2011

The Ministry of the Environment 2010 proposal for the NES is a discussion document of 134 pages. After a power point presentation detailed by Rachel Fyfe, Barry Johnson and a review by Dr.Bloombery. We were asked to comment on the presentations.

The Ministry is the Governments principle adviser on the Environment, noted by the presenters by way of standards policy statements and strategies.

On behalf of the TRWoR I addressed the matter relating to the Treaty settlement land, Crown Forest licenses and Maori Land that could come under the auspices of NES.

The report in itself lacks detail and considered Maori Land as being general land to be controlled by local or territorial authorities via the Resource Management Act. 1994.

Maori land titles generated by partitions consolidation, conversion and succession orders comes under the jurisdiction of the Ture Whenua Maori. The rules governing general land do not apply to land under Te Ture whenau Land.

Although the report alludes to Maori land it fails to address the difficulties that confront Maori land owners because of the requirement to comply with Ture Whenua Maori.

I quoted the implementation of the Taylor report 1958 commissioned to plant pine on the eroding lands in the Poverty Bay hinterland; the Maori landmass of 8518 acres identified in the report, was purchased initially to kick-start the afforestation. The Crown considered it was best for it to own the land.

The Crowns expectancy was to reafforest all the land mass identified in the Taylor report; initially 17,000 acres were planted. MAF now record exotic plantings on the East Coast cover 33,000 acres on erosion prone lands, which includes the Tokorarangi Block at East Cape.

My view is that Maori land should be clearly identified in the NES review and to address what is best for those lands if there are to changes to the current land utilisation, the transition from eroded pastoral land to exotic plantings.
The area of replanting proposed in the MfE report relates to margins with differing setbacks apropos rivers, streams and riparian zones. These setback margins and riparian zones in the Tauranga Moana Rohe will require full consultation with tangata whenua; water potency is a taonga.

The report addresses the plantation forest and the NZ emissions trading scheme [NZETS] will be of interest to the TRWoR in relation to the Athenree Crown Forest Licence. A table sets out the obligations and opportunities related to pre and post 1990 forests.

The valuation process will include NZU/ha of the sequestered carbon in the CFRT Athenree that qualify under its present planting regime. For example 100ha@235NZU/ha tables =23,500NZU which at $20/NZU=$296,000.

This particular section is of interest to us in relation to the commercial investments and the decisions ahead of us when harvesting the forest. This is to be factored in the valuation process both for the licence and the land included the Treaty settlement. Discounted cash flow tables over the period of growth to maturity will underpin the valuation process.

The nomenclature identifies archaeological sites; it would preferable to expand that to include Maori sites of historical and cultural significance.

I will maintain contact with Barry Johnson Acting Manger [MfE]

Na Horimatua Evans