



TE RŪNANGA O NGĀTI AWA

13 March 2020

Indigenous Biodiversity Submission

Ministry for the Environment

Email: indigenusbiodiversity@mfe.govt.nz

DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY – SUBMISSION BY TE RŪNANGA O NGĀTI AWA (TRONA).

Introduction

This is a submission from TRONA who are the representatives of the tangata whenua who hold mana whenua in their traditional rohe to which this proposed National Policy Statement relates. TRONA is a post settlement entity that represents the 22 confederate hapū of Ngāti Awa. The rohe of Ngāti Awa lies on the east coast of the Bay of Plenty.

The Ngāti Awa Claims Settlement Act 2005 and Te Runanga o Ngāti Awa Act 2005 gives recognition to the status of Ngāti Awa as kaitiaki and mana whenua of the natural resources within our rohe boundaries.

TRONA interest in the Proposed National Policy Statement

Treaty Relationship

TRONA have an expectation that the Crown will honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the principles upon which the treaty is founded. All persons undertaking duties under the Resource Management Act 1991, shall recognise and respect the Crown's responsibility to give effect to the principles of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

It is TRONA's expectation that the Ministry for the Environment have direct engagement to co-design and co-develop any rule framework that affects our rohe. The Ministry has failed in its duties to date and we do not support the current proposal.

Kaitiakitanga

Whanau and hapū of Ngāti Awa are kaitiaki – tangata whenua only can be kaitiaki. As kaitiaki we share a responsibility to ensure that our natural and ancestral taonga are managed in a manner that is not only sustainable but is in accord with ngā tikanga me ngā kawa o Ngāti Awa. Ngāti Awa are both users of natural resources, and stewards of those resources. TRONA is guided by the whakatauaiki: Tātai ngā whetu ki te rangi, mau tonu, mau tonu, tātai te tangata ki te whenua, ngaro noa, ngaro noa, toi tū te mana o te whenua, tū tonu, tū tonu.

The starry hosts of heaven abide there forever, the hosts of men upon this earth will pass away into oblivion to be forgotten, whilst the authority, dignity and integrity of the land remains immutable.

In keeping with the kaitiaki responsibilities of Ngāti Awa whānui, TRONA has an interest in ensuring sustainable management of natural resources, including protection of taonga and mahinga kai for future generations.

TRONA have recently launched our Iwi Environment Management plan (“the Plan”) and access is available through our website www.ngatiawa.iwi.nz

NPS – IB specific comments

TRONA expects development of amendments for ‘fast tracking’ must not result in unintended consequences like:

- Lack of collaboration with iwi and hapū
- Exclusion of iwi and hapū in decision making processes
- relegating iwi and hapū to a position of only ever being submitters to publicly notified consent applications and freshwater management planning and consenting processes.

Additionally, the 2011 WAI 262 report outlines the need for recognition of cultural values, practices and intellectual property associated with native flora and fauna. This includes recognition of tino rangatiratanga over those tāonga and the development of mechanisms for their active protection.

Ngāti Awa promotes Government attention on these matters and submits that the NPSIB must ensure Government agencies and Councils enquire at iwi authorities before deciding matters.

Ngāti Awa identify the following issues:

1. Our indigenous biodiversity (comprising flora and fauna) and associated ecosystems are impacted by:
 - Human activity- land drainage, clearance, fragmentation; contaminant discharges as well as waterway modification
 - Pest plants, pest animals and diseases.
2. Inadequate recognition of Ngāti Awa values, interests and mātauranga, in relation to indigenous biodiversity.
3. A significant portion of remaining indigenous biodiversity is contained within Maori land. The proposal will add extra regulation limits and restriction on our ability to use our land.

Next steps

TRONA expects direct engagement with the Ministry for the Environment to discuss how our values and expectations can be recognised within the National Policy Statement framework.

Please contact Michal Akurangi (Manager Taiao) to make arrangements by emailing michal@ngatiawa.iwi.nz

Nga mihi,

pp. 

Leonie Simpson

Manahautū