30 October 2019
Freshwater Submissions
Ministry for the Environment
Wellington

By Email: Consultation.freshwater@mfe.govt.nz

Introduction

This is a submission by Whangara Farms ("the Partnership").

The Partnership is a substantial Maori owned agricultural enterprise with land holdings in the Gisborne District. The Partnership is a venture of three Maori Incorporations, Whangara B5, Pakarae A and Other Blocks and Tapuwae Whitiwhiti. They have combined over 2,000 owners whose tribal affiliation is Ngati Konohi.

In 1949, all three committees of management met with the late Sir Apirana Ngata and agreed to the Whangara Consolidated Scheme. The three incorporations of the Partnership were created from this process and commenced separate management of their lands for the next 57 years.

In 2006, Whangara B5 and Pakarae formed a partnership and in 2015, Tapuwae Whitiwhiti joined them. The Partnership represents the reunification of Whangara lands under one governance structure of its people.

The Partnership owns approximately 8,300 hectares of land. Of this 6,900 is effective farmland. The Partnership operates an extensive sheep and beef farming operation.

Submission

The Partnership fully supports the submission of Mangatu Blocks Incorporation and Wi Pere Trust dated 29 October 2019.

The Partnership has had extensive Land Environment Plans prepared for each of our individual lands. We have been working our way through these plans, at a huge cost to the Partnership. To have this “one size fits all” thrust upon us as stated in the Mangatu paper, has not taken into account the regional variations and variations within a region.

It is appreciated that the current plan of action is that submissions will be considered by an Expert Panel on the papers. If that approach should change, the Partnership would seek to appear alongside Mangatu and Wi Pere and be heard by the Independent Expert Panel.

Whangara land is our beating heart, it is a part of us and we are a part of it.

An intergenerational expanse providing ongoing returns.

Nga mihi nui

Chairperson
Whangara Farms

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