Fulfilling the potential of kaitiakitanga

Reform in Paradise Conference
Auckland, 8-9 June 2009

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Māori see the world in a different way, and prioritise different things. We have long sought active participation in decision making processes so that our priorities are taken seriously. Co-management provides an opportunity to end a ‘paradigm of exclusion’.
Kingitanga 150 years

1830s  Battle of Taumatawiwi - Karapiro
1840  Treaty of Waitangi
1860  King Movement
•  Potatau
•  Tawhiao “Prophet or King”
  •  Confiscation
  •  *Tooku Awa Koiora*
•  Monarch to Monarch
•  Mahuta – Member of Parliament
•  Te Rata – “Homeward Bound”
•  Koroki – QEII visit
•  Te Atairangikaahu – 1995 Raupatu Settlement
•  Tuheitia – 2008 River Settlement
Voice

TEN DAYS ON THE ISLAND, TASMANIAN MUSEUM & ART GALLERY AND CLARENCE CITY COUNCIL PRESENT

ANIWANIWA
Māori (particularly in the context of the RMA) shouldn’t be seen as anti-development, or as problematic but we are kaitiaki – to protect the whenua, the awa and sacred sites and this is affirmed in Te Tiriti o Waitangi. As we move forward, we must be in partnership. Any water programme of action must see water as a taonga in the context of the Treaty and this benefits all of us, not just Māori. The RMA seemed to set us apart as world leaders in this area, let’s not let that go. Don’t just consult with us; allow us to participate. Don’t let Māori be relegated to a second tier level of consultation when Māori are the Treaty partner.

*Consultation hui on the Water Programme of Action*
Waikato-Tainui settlement and the ‘new era of co-management’

- Treaty settlements most effective means of restoring rights such as kaitiakitanga
  - (RM legislation of limited effect)
- Te Mana o te Awa
- Mana Whakahaere
- Co-management (cf ownership)
  - Guardians Establishment Committee
  - Statutory Board
  - Accords e.g. fisheries
Guardians Establishment Committee (GEC)

• Who
  – “River iwi” from Huka Falls to Port Waikato
  – Crown appointments include: Local Councils; Regional Council (EW); MRP

• Vision and Strategy
  – National Policy Statement

• Independent Scoping Study
An ecologists’ view
Assoc.Prof Brendan Hicks

• The multistranded ecosystem of the Waikato River has been highly modified
• Fish migrations have been disrupted
• Eels have been overfished
• Deforestation and land use intensification has degraded water quality
• Pest fish have invaded the river, its lakes, and its tributaries
• We desperately need high quality management
Different perspectives

Western science perspective
Drinkable water may carry contaminants but at a level that is not toxic to humans

Māori perspective
(Cultural Health Index)
Require drinking water to be protected from spiritual pollution which means certain discharge activities, regardless of the level of physical contamination, are prohibited.
The GEC for the Waikato River is in the process of shaping an independent scoping study that will help to identify the clean-up priorities and costs for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of an ancestral river.

It is a successful outcome of the Waikato-Tainui Settlement that tangata whenua perspectives of what constitutes a healthy and well river will be a driving factor in that study.
Co-management opportunities

- **Challenge:**
  - Developing a spirit of co-operation and mutual regard, rather than perpetuating conflict and collision

- **Principles**
  - Full participation, mutual respect, and equitable sharing in the country’s wealth

- **Requirements**
  - Fruitful relationships
    - Crown- Māori
    - Between Māori
“The combined contributions of two knowledge systems provides hope for the enhanced management of our future existence.”

Dr Kepa Morgan, 2009

RMA Review(s)
• Participation and consultation
• Joint management agreements
• Streamlining
• Enforcement