The Treasury

Release of Submissions: Consultation on the Waitangi Tribunal's "Shares Plus" Proposal

Release Document

November 2012

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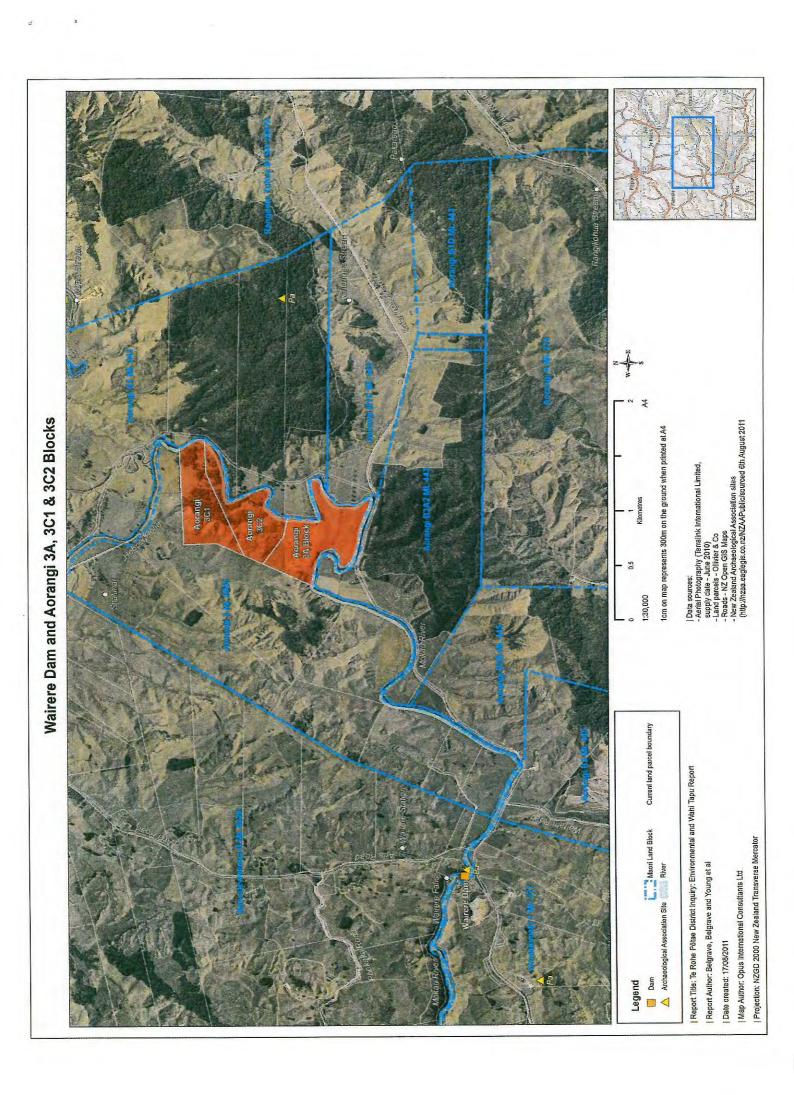
APPENDIX FIVE WAIRERE DAM AND AORANGI 3A, 3C1 AND 3C2 BLOCKS

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18 May 2012

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APPENDIX SIX

HTTP://WWW.GREENS.ORG.NZ/NODE/25865;

MOKAU RIVER MARCH 29, 2011

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Mokau River - March 29, 2011

Tuesday, 12 Apr 2011 | Blog post Contact: Russel Norman MP Tags: Conservation, Dirty rivers rafting tour, Water

The Mokau River, in north Taranaki, is a gem of a river. It rises as a spring in the magical Pureora forest south of Te Kuiti, a forest that is home of the last of the ancient totara. Mokau is hidden in a limestone gorge and rushes down steep rapids before flattening out for the run to the coast north of New Plymouth.



The Mokau is home to our mysterious and disappearing native fish - eels, inanga, giant kokopu, banded kokopu, and koaro - whose lifecycle needs access up and down our rivers to the ocean. It is one of the top ten whitewater rafting rivers in the North Island.

Back in the old days, it was the route for Māori to travel between Taranaki and the Waikato. They would paddle large waka up the base of the rapids then transfer to smaller waka that could be paddled and carried around the rapids as they travelled up the river towards the Waikato.

At the point of the waka transfer is a pa site that today sits on the land of the Barclay family farm bounded by the river. Kelly Barclay had contacted us, concerned about proposals to dam the river. This was our entry point for the next leg of my dirty and threatened rivers rafting tour.



The bottom end of the rapids

Kelly's brother Jason had lowered the kayaks by rope down into the gorge on the previous day. We climbed down into the amazing limestone gorge.



Descent into the gorge

The limestone cliffs stood high above and the sun filtered down through the trees. The cliffs were rippled and smooth, as limestone does.



Limestone cliffs

Here and there were caves, tomo, and crevasses which contain the burial sites of those who came before. It was a magical place.



In the gorge

Earlier, we had begun the day with a meeting with mana whenua further upstream at the Wairere Falls dam, a dam built decades ago on top of a series of once beautiful waterfalls (reminds me of the dam on the Mataura River) to generate a tiny amount of hydroelectricity. I met up with Barbara Marsh, Tohe Ruaputu and Peter from Mokau Ki Runga (Ngāti Maniopoto).



At the Wairere Falls Dam - Barbara, Tohe, Peter, Kelly, Jason

Maniopoto in the area had lost most of their land, sold by a chief further inland without their consent they said, and then had a dam built on their sacred river.

Now there was a proposal for a new dam on the river. The dam was to go on top of some of the tuna pa sites on the rivers - sites for collecting lamprey eels as they made their way up the river. Lamprey are amazing translucent creatures, with a sucker at the front, which spend part of their life cycle in our rivers - and are an acquired taste apparently.

The tuna pa sites had been in use as long as anyone could remember.

As the river travels downstream it gathers pollution from agriculture, adding to the sediment coming out of the mudstone hills. The mudstone erodes naturally but land clearance has increased erosion dramatically and now the river has a brown sediment load permanently.



On the river

The new dam would drown a good part of the rapids in the gorge, and it would drown some of the tuna pa sites, in order to generate 6MW to 9MW of power, or as much as 4 to 6 large wind turbines operating 50% of the time. The dam would fill with sediment over time. It had been

declined at a resource consent hearing and now King Country Energy was appealing to the Environment Court.



We were joined on the trip by Maniopoto, local Greens and a Waitomo District Councillor, Phil Brody, who disputed claims that agriculture was causing serious river pollution. A recitation of the science around the issue seemed to have little impact. Erin and Jason were our kayaking experts. So we were a motley crew.



The paddle down the river was dream-like - overhanging bush, limestone cliffs, occasional small rapids, and mysterious tomo. Then a reminder of reality as a bunch of cattle appeared unfenced next to the river with their hoofmarks down to the water - white man do you have no sacred sites.



After the paddle we went to the Fat Pigeon café at Pio Pio to meet more locals - a mixed group. At one end of the wooden table on the balcony of the café by the highway were proponents of the dam. Farmers and one or two who worked for the power company. At the other end, local Māori who wanted the river protected and restored. In the middle some local conservationists, a teacher from the local primary school trying to see both sides, me and Kelly. It proved to be a fascinating conversation - mostly respectful but worlds apart at times - words lost in the rumble of passing large trucks.

The dairy farmer wanted the dam to create power but also a lake where local kids could enjoy watersports and waka ama instead of sitting in front of the TV. He and his wife wanted to plant out the foreshore of the newly created lake with natives and put a walking track through it. He said he encouraged Māori to use the tuna pa site on their farm and called them up when the lamprey were running, though this tuna pa might be one of the ones to go underwater.

Moira, from Mokau Ki Runga, speaking slowly, saw it differently. They were the river and the river was them. To put a dam literally on top of their tuna pa sites was to take something away that had no replacement. Her people had nowhere else to go. Local Māori kids went to a natural lake nearby for their waka ama where they had a marae and learnt not just about waka racing but the culture around it as well. She invited the pākehā farmers to send their kids along too, they were welcome.

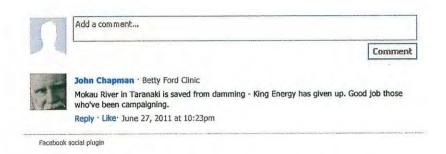
It seemed as if one side of town had seldom spoken to the other. One side had a dream of a dam for water sports on a lake, while the other side they were already practising waka ama on a natural lake not far away. Surely some common ground could be found.

Afterward Kelly was excited that the two sides had heard each others' views face to face for the first time.

After the trip I was reminded that the Mokau features in Geoff Park's must-read Ngã uruora. Geoff visited the mouth of the river where a remnant piece of lowland forest survived the ecological holocaust that was colonisation. I shall have to visit it some other time.



Thanks to Kelly, Jason and Alina for organising the trip, and thanks to all those who turned out to share their views. Josh, I won't tell a soul.



Authorised by Jon Field, Level 2, 17 Garrett Street, Wellington.

APPENDIX SEVEN SUBURBAN SECTIONS VILLAGE OF ARIA; BLOCK X TOTORO S.DIST

RECEIVED

Waitangi Tribunal

18 May 2012

Ministry of Justice WELLINGTON

95 Town, Suburban, and Village SECTIONS

Towns of Aria and Manganui

VILLAGE OF TARATA.

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION FOR CASH.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undermentioned Town, Suburban, and Village Sections will be submitted to Public Auction, under the provisions of "The Land Act, 1892," at the District Lands and Survey Office, NEW PLYMOUTH, on TUESDAY, the 28th NOVEMBER, 1905, at 11 a.m.

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TERMS OF SALE.

Une-fifth of the purchase-money to be paid on the fall of the hammer, and the balance, with Crawr-grant fee (21), within thirty days thereafter; otherwise the part of the purchase-money paid by way of deposit shall be forfeited, and the contract for the sade of the land he shall and void.

rs may be ascertained and plaus obtained at this office.

FRANCIS SIMPSON,

COMMISSIONER OF FROWN LANDS



1981. The level on which very Trig. Statum is revised and righter may there is reserved under the Lunds dat 1982. The removal or destruction of Trig Statums during upon as marks in made a markementum by the Lund. Art 1902.

Block X Totoro S. Dist

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