

Re proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan: Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori.

Further submission regarding Lot 3 DP 444535 Valuation number 2576031001

Milltown land classification as SASM

1. In relation to the proposed classification of our privately owned land at Milltown we the owners wish to register our total and unwavering opposition to this undemocratic process. The points we raised in our earlier submission still stand and we have been provided no fact based evidence or reason to alter our position.
2. We are in absolute opposition to having any other party registering some sort of lien or caveat over our land. Having our land classified as SASM simply diminishes property rights, the title of private land , decreases its value on the open market and complicates matters should we wish to undertake any developments.
3. It is most egregious that our rights as property owners are being eroded in this way and that this process is being carried out and sanctioned by any Council elected or not. Well done to Grey District Council who have seen fit to challenge it.
4. I also suggest that it might have been undertaken with less enthusiasm if the organisers and planners' personal property had been targeted in the same way.
5. We should not have to consult with a third party in relation to land that we have purchased, done the hard mahi on and maintained over the last 14 years as well as paying rates and a mortgage.
6. There is a Conservation Covenant which is already in place over the land in question which gives it adequate protection. The land is also Victorian title and as such we have absolute ownership of the land and minerals as it is a part of Reserve 145.
7. We have viewed the "mythological" reasons for the inclusion of our privately owned property and do not accept that this is a factual or valid reason for its inclusion.
8. The land we own is not a "river". The "river" that was mentioned in the myth that was quoted in a WCRC planners' response outlining a myth. Mount Tuhua is also mentioned in the response for rejecting our initial submission. Our land is not Mount Tuhua.
9. Simply because our land is in sight of those features, we do not believe that this is a reason for it's inclusion in this process.

10. The nearby riverbed is already in Mawhera ownership therefore there is no reason to classify our private land as of significance.
11. No one has had the decency to explain the implications of this process, it has been a very one-sided process. There has been an absolute lack of clarity about how this classification impacts on our land and title going forward.
12. We are open to negotiation and I repeat we made the approach to the Chair of Mawhera several years ago and there was no interest shown at that point.
13. Any party or group that is interested in our land is able to purchase it land by making an offer to purchase and coming to an agreement on the price.
14. We certainly feel marginalised and excluded by this “process” which has caused a lot of angst and bitterness in the community.
15. In summary if the land is significant to Maori then I suggest instead of subverting private property rights that the interested party go through the usual process to acquire it by purchasing it.
16. The land is “significant” to us as we often reside there and we have invested a lot of time, money, sweat and effort into protecting and restoring this place.
17. Our ancestry also qualifies us to repeat this famous quote to reject this process of disingenuous and mischievous interference in our land and our rights to enjoy it.

“E hoa, ka whawhai tonu mātou, Āke! Āke! Āke!”

For your attention.

Vernon Morris

26/05/2024