

Good afternoon. I am Peter Kennedy and I thank the SASM committee for the opportunity to present here today at the Marae.

The TTPP committee rejected our submission, SASM 36, Totara Bush Native Reserve, which was summarised in the report as us asking for proof that the “original reserve relating to land was on our land”. The committee stated in their response that SASM 36 recognises the Totara Flat Bush Native Reserve and the Arahura Deed of Purchase 1860.

My family has farmed the land in question at Totara Flat for five generations, since my great great grandfather purchased the land from Mr McNeil. It has been extensively ploughed, harrowed, cropped and worked almost annually for 160 plus years by the Kennedy family. No Maori artifacts have ever been turned up during this period. Of note is that when my father, grandfather, great grandfather and great great grandfather farmed, they had no repercussions to fear should they find an artifact and would have handed it to the relevant authority at the time without hesitation in the spirit of preserving the heritage of New Zealand history. They had great respect for all people, races, history and customs which has been continued, through their example, to all generations right to the present day.

This rich history supports our submission which is to reject SASM 36 on the irrefutable knowledge that the findings are based on incorrect assumptions of where the Maori reserves were. *The findings place them in the incorrect area.* This applies to the entire area of Totara Flat, not just the Kennedy farm.

Our submissions were rejected by the TTPP committee based on publications tabled by Mr Paul Madgewick. I bring to your attention a conflict of interest within your committee. Mr Paul Madgewick is on the committee while also putting in the SASMs.

If he has a vote on each, this would clearly be a conflict of interest. I submit that he should be excluding himself from this part of the process.

When the NZ archive 1860 Totara Flat area maps and the 1870 area map, which we submitted, are researched, they clearly show the committee based their decision on a publication that wrongly showed Maori activity on Totara Flat farm/township land. We have no objection to the 1860 deeds – these actually, again clearly, show that the Maori reserves were left intact and towns and farms were built elsewhere, thus respecting the Maori reserves.

Maori reserves were, in fact, to the North of Totara Flat.

Of note, Paul Madgewick referred in his further submission to the agreements of 1860 and the Totara Flat bush. This was the agreement of the day, that is 1860, and not for future generations to change based on word of mouth. And we all know, especially here on the West Coast, how a verbal statement can differ greatly over the course of one week, let alone a century and a half!!!!

We present in evidence, as per the accompanying maps quite clearly show, the Native Reserve of 1860 was somewhere else and the 1870 maps also clearly show that the Totara Flat township was built away from the Native Reserve by settlers honouring the 1860 agreements. Therefore we conclusively and irrefutably move that the SASM 36 should be completely deleted.

I conclude that the committee has, in this instance, been remiss in its duties to base such important and consequential decisions on such flawed evidence. To take it at face value is inexcusable. Were the maps not supplied to guide the committee in their decisions, they should have been searched for in the easily accessible NZ archive map site.

A quick search of this map site would show the same incorrect conclusions were applied to the township of Ahaura, the next town south of Totara Flat. In 1860 the Native Reserve was on the South Bank of the Ahaura River where it meets the Grey River. The 1870 map shows the township was developed well away from the Reserve and on the *other side* of the river.

Clearly this shows the maps do exist and Settlers were respectful of Native Reserves when townships were established. The people of the day made those agreements which should be honoured in the same way to this present day.

Thank you for your time.