

19 November 2024

Tēnā koutou,

Below are the main points that the Māori Trustee intends to present to the Hearing Panel for Topic 10 – Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity on the Proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan (**Proposed Plan**).

Introduction:

Ngahua Huirama and Vanesa Griffiths appear on behalf of the Māori Trustee, Dr Charlotte Severne.

The Māori Trustee thanks the Hearing Panel for the opportunity to speak to her submission on the Proposed Plan.

An outline on the role of the Māori Trustee and the lands she administers was provided in the Māori Trustee's original submission and in a further letter to the Hearing Panel dated 20 November 2023. These also explained what Māori freehold land is, how ownership of Māori freehold land is determined and barriers to development of Māori freehold land. These matters are fundamental to understanding the Māori Trustee's position.

Before turning to our position on the s42A Officer's recommendations and changes, the Māori Trustee first wishes to acknowledge Poutini Ngāi Tahu as the mana whenua of this rohe.

Secondly, since the s42A Officer's report was released, the Māori Trustee and Poutini Ngāi Tahu have provided the hearing panel with a joint statement outlining our agreed recommendations for the panel's consideration dated 15 August 2024. This also outlined submission points the Māori Trustee has formally withdrawn from.

Representatives from the Māori Trustee and Ngāi Tahu met on the 12 November 2024 to discuss our respective positions on the Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity topic. The Māori Trustee is supportive of Poutini Ngāi Tahu's position regarding the implementation process of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) and the use of specified Māori land within the Proposed Plan.

Given the focus of the Māori Trustee's submission has been on ensuring appropriate recognition of owners of Māori freehold land, the Māori Trustee wishes to address the s42A Officer's insertion of specified Māori land into the Proposed Plan.

Specified Māori Land and implementation of the NPS-IB:

The Māori Trustee is not opposed to the Proposed Plan incorporating parts of the NPS-IB where possible. However, the Māori Trustee has concerns with the s42A Officer's recommended amendments of how specified Māori land will apply within the plan itself.



The s42A Officer has recommended that “Poutini Ngāi Tahu land means specified Māori land that is owned or managed by Poutini Ngāi Tahu.”¹ The Māori Trustee is concerned that using specified Māori land to define Poutini Ngāi Tahu land inappropriately narrows the intended application and implementation of specified Māori land as directed in the NPS-IB.

The NPS-IB requires indigenous biodiversity to be managed differently on specified Māori land, which is inclusive of Māori freehold land. The NPS-IB states under clause 3.18(1)² that local authorities must work in partnership with both tangata whenua and owners of specified Māori land when developing policy statements, plans, objectives, policies, and methods. Further to this, local authorities are required under clause 3.18(2)³ to enable the new occupation, use and development of specified Māori land.

Currently, provisions within this chapter (such as ECO – R1) only provide for Poutini Ngāi Tahu land and excludes Māori freehold land and other land provided for within the NPS-IB’s definition of specified Māori land.⁴

The Māori Trustee therefore does not support the s42A Officer’s use of specified Māori land in this way and believes that the Proposed Plan should refer to all specified Māori land, where appropriate, not just a subset of it. The Māori Trustee believes that a separate subclause is needed to provide for all specified Māori land and their owners.

The Māori Trustee also recommends that provisions within this chapter should be reviewed and amended, as a whole, to reflect the NPS-IB’s definition of specified Māori land and its intended implementation. This will require appropriate engagement with both Poutini Ngāi Tahu and owners of specified Māori land.

The Māori Trustee is happy to engage further on this and work through solutions with Poutini Ngāi Tahu, the s42A Officer and other parties if required.

We hope you find this information helpful and would be happy to clarify any questions or queries you may have on the day of the hearing. Otherwise, feel free to contact us by email at resource.management@tetumupaeroa.co.nz.

Ngā manaakitanga,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Shaw', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Greg Shaw

Deputy Māori Trustee

¹ S42A Officers report – Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity, pg. 72.

² [National-Policy-Statement-for-Indigenous-Biodiversity.pdf](#).

³ [National-Policy-Statement-for-Indigenous-Biodiversity.pdf](#).

⁴ Clause 1.6, [National-Policy-Statement-for-Indigenous-Biodiversity.pdf](#).
