

**Tairawhiti Whenua**

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3 June 2022.

Ministry of Transport's NZ Freight and Supply Chain Issues.

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Greetings,

### **Introduction.**

1. This is the first time Tairawhiti Whenua (TW) have become aware of this "take".
2. TW are involved primarily in sheep and beef farming, forestry and horticulture. Most of our products are clustered and processed in some form to then be exported. Being involved at the bottom of the supply chain totem pole means we are vulnerable to every reform step that is occurring until our products arrive at their overseas markets. TW are also reliant on relationships generally beyond our farm gates to have our products processed and transported to markets. The impact of reform so far for TW is:
  - Increased costs to transport our products to processing and markets.
  - Unreliable transport booking and shipping, particularly by ship.
  - Market access and reform issues in our overseas markets.
3. This makes business more challenging on top of the water, climate change and environmental reforms our businesses are confronted with.
4. TW note this consultation is limited to NZ and would like to emphasise that the global freight and supply chain issues are equally important.
5. One local matter that comes to mind is rail. There is still interest and a proposal for a business case to reinstate the Rail Line between Napier to Gisborne, especially Wairoa to Gisborne. The Gisborne District Council, Wairoa and Hawkes Bay Councils are lobbying Government for a \$6 million business case. Getting trucks off the road is safer and better efficiency for climate change which TW see is mentioned as a key driver for this strategy refresh.

### **TW Introduction.**

6. TW is a recent collective of currently some 45 Maori land blocks, on behalf of the 1,596 Maori land blocks registered on the Tairawhiti<sup>1</sup>, formed to respond to the challenges of regulatory change around climate change, water quality, resource

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<sup>1</sup> Maori Land Update – Nga Ahuatanga o te Whenua. June 2013.

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management and numerous other regulations that impact on sustainable best choices for our whenua, people and communities, now and for the foreseeable future.

7. TW currently:
  - a. manage 142,994 hectares of Maori land, ranging from 46,000 hectares for the largest piece to 5 hectares for the smallest,
  - b. responsible to 142,445 owners,
  - c. employ 400+ staff,
  - d. manage \$731 million of assets,
  - e. create \$51 million of business revenue for the region and its communities.
8. TW members have been around since before the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840 and will be around for a long time into the future. TW was formed as a collective to advocate participation in all regulatory reform that impacts on our whenua, people and communities including this consultation on MOT's NZ Freight and Supply Chain Issues.
9. Maori landowners have rights and interests as treaty partner. It was hapu and not PGSE's that signed the Treaty.
10. Given how Maori have evolved, TW advocate mana whakahaere to guide an inclusive approach to engaging with Maori. Maori, being hapu, PGSE, whanau, individuals and Maori Landowners.
11. That being the case, TW preference is to work with government in co-designing and road testing where practical, regulatory reform that impacts on our whenua and communities.
12. TW are part time people who are passionate and care about their ancestral whenua. We are not funded to provide responses to all the regulatory reform that is confronting our members including this submission on MOT's NZ Freight and Supply Chain Issues.
13. The tsunami of regulatory reform is taking its toll on TW members and there is genuine fear, confusion and disgruntlement that many of the smaller Maori landowners on the Tairawhiti will be left further behind everyone else and many will not survive or just cease to exist, and hence this TW submission.

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### Concluding Comments.

14. If Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Primary Industries want to work with TW on this NZ Freight and Supply Chain Issues submission, you need to resource us. TW have already put in unanswered proposals to:

- a. Mfe on 7 January 2022, to assist 1,596 Tairawhiti Maori Landowners Deliver and Implement Freshwater and other related reforms.
- b. MPI on 24 May 2022, to assist 44 Tairawhiti Maori Landowners to implement integrated farm planning.

### 15. For Further Information Contact:

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