



# TE KAWEKAWEA

13 January 2023

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## ***Mātaimoana***

As reported in our [December 2022 Te Kawekawea](#), Taranaki Whānui have sought from the Minister for the Environment approval to 'fast track' a project, which would enable the development of kainga at Mātaimoana (Mount Crawford).

The opportunity to undertake a development at Mātaimoana, represents a significant milestone for Taranaki Whānui and goes to the heart of the Trust's purpose of acquiring land back (where possible) that enables opportunities for Taranaki Whānui.

Due to its cultural significance, the whenua, along with the entire Crown landholding at Motu Kairangi (including Mātaimoana) was previously sought during our treaty settlement negotiations, however, this request was declined at that time by the Crown.

Taranaki Whānui are now proposing, 14 years post the settlement of the Taranaki Whānui claim, that the 13-hectare whenua (which is surplus to Crown requirements) is sold by the Crown to Taranaki Whānui under our right of first refusal clause in our Treaty Settlement.

Securing whenua like Mātaimoana is a key part the trust's purpose and enables Taranaki Whānui to assert our mana, expand our presence and landholdings whilst creating kainga for uri and our city in a way that reflects our identity and values.

As previously discussed, we are doing this by working with the Crown and others to secure land for future generations of Taranaki Whānui. We are moving with purpose and pace to lock in identified opportunities, as they may not present themselves again.

The cost for Taranaki Whānui to purchase the whenua from the Crown is \$23m.

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We are proposing that the purchase of the whenua would be enabled through a consortium consisting of ngā iwi o Taranaki. This approach would not be too dissimilar to the Tai Hekenga consortium established for our sale and leaseback properties in Wellington.

The Mātaimoana kāinga project seeks to build between 650 - 700 homes which would be leased to whānau and others, with Taranaki Whānui retaining the freehold title in the whenua.

What we are currently proposing for the whenua is a Taranaki Whānui owned and led kāinga project that achieves multiple social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits for uri.

Some quick points:

- The Mātaimoana kāinga project is being led by Taranaki Whānui
- The purchase price from the Crown for the whenua is \$23m
- Taranaki Whānui is seeking funding through a consortium of ngā iwi o Taranaki (and / or other Taranaki whānaunga entities)
- The whenua will be owned by Taranaki Whānui and the development would be based on a leasehold model
- Papakāinga, kāinga, marae, education and other social, cultural structures / buildings can be enabled through the proposal
- The fast-track consenting process we are seeking provides Taranaki Whānui the quickest avenue to achieving a consent to enable the Mātaimoana kāinga project to proceed
- The fast-track consenting legislation will not be available to us post July 2023
- Current council rules, government legislation and the high cost of the whenua at Mātaimoana means that any viable kainga project on the whenua requires a fast-track consent
- No consenting process, whether fast-track or a traditional pathway secures Taranaki Whānui with the certainty of achieving a consent to undertake the project and we will be canvassing your views prior to seeking a consent
- The Trust will not proceed with a purchase of the whenua without a fast-track consent as the project will not be viable
- If the whenua is not purchased by Taranaki Whānui, it will be put on the open market by the Crown
- We will ensure a high level of information is provided to you to ensure you are well informed throughout the process

If the Minister for the Environment accepts our request, we have a period of 6 months to finalise our application for lodgement of the consent we require with the expert panel.

We will likely find out the Ministers decision in June/July this year.

Between now and up to the point of lodging our final application (if the Minister accepts our proposal) we will be undertaking extensive engagement with uri on the project as we refine, develop, and agree priorities and key elements. Engagement with uri on this proposal prior to lodging the request for a fast-track consenting pathway was not possible due to the tight timeframes of Crown processes.

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The office has just returned from a well-deserved break, and we are currently planning and designing our uri engagement sessions around this mahi. We look forward to discussing this further with you in the near future, along with providing you with all the relevant documents and information in relation to the application.

We provide you with the [Mātaimoana briefing presentation provided to Trustees](#) and the link to the [December 2022 Te Kawekaweā](#) which includes the draft piece of work completed by Len Hetet which informed the development of the application.

If you have any questions, we invite you to reach out to the office via email at [reception@portnicholson.org.nz](mailto:reception@portnicholson.org.nz)

## Staying Connected

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