

# TE KAAHUI O RAURU

NGAA RAURU KIITAH IWI  
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24 January 2017

Trans Tasman Mining Application Decision Making Committee  
Environmental Protection Authority  
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Teenaa koe

Ngaa mihi o te raa kia koe.

Having just returned from overseas, I am appalled to learn the Decision Making Committee has not only rejected our request to hold a hearing on our marae but has performed an inexcusable insult on Mana Whenua by refusing to hold a hearing within the Ngati Ruanui takiwa, as recorded in the 22 December 2016 Minute 12.

Minute 14, dated 20 January 2017, refers to the decision noting the "logistical requirements and administrative costs". In our view, all this decision does is impose a heavier financial and logistical burden onto submitters, including iwi. We do not see any level of commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi or support for Tangata Whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga in this decision.

Furthermore, this decision is reminiscent of the devious tactics deployed on Maaori in the 1800s when the Native Land Court convened sittings regarding Maaori land in distant locations creating barriers of time and cost to owners. Consequently, many Maaori owners were unable to attend court hearings, resulting in the loss of their lands. It is unacceptable that the Crown is still exhibiting similar behaviours in 2017!

Please provide a rational and practical explanation as to why the Decision Making Committee cannot schedule a hearing on a Ngati Ruanui or Ngaa Rauurū Kiitahi marae. Please also explain why a hearing cannot be held in Hawera or Whanganui. In 2014, there were 32 submitters who spoke at hearings held at Pariroa Pa on 28-29 April, and we understand significantly more submissions have been received this time.

We would also like an explanation as to why the EPA did not inform submitters directly of the requirement to reconfirm their intention to attend oral submissions until prompted by Rochelle Bullock and KASM.

Noho ora mai

Anne-Marie Broughton  
**Kaiwhakahaere**

CC: Ngai Kaihautu & CEO Doug Jones