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SUBMISSION: Trans-Tasman Resources Limited iron sand extraction and processing application

Email: TTRLApplication@epa.govt.nz

Due: 5.00pm on Monday 12 December 2016

Contacts

Te Whiringa Muka Trust, Chair

Jenny Tamakehu



Whanganui Iwi Fisheries Limited, Director

Nancy Tuaine



Ngā Tāngata Tiaki Whanganui, Chair

Gerrard Albert





E rere kau mai te Awa nui

Mai i te Kāhui Maunga ki Tangaroa

Ko au te Awa, ko te Awa ko au.

Background

1. In 2003 Te Ohu Kai Moana (TOKM), the Maori Fisheries Commission, settled upon an allocation model for the national Fisheries Settlement of 1992 commonly referred to as the 'Sealords Deal.' This allocation model, together with guidelines for the establishment of Mandated Iwi Organisations (MIO) to receive the assets, was subsequently legislated in the Maori Fisheries Act 2004. It was under these circumstances that Whanganui was compelled to establish a MIO entity by 2006 to accept its share of those assets, such share being valued at just over \$5.6 million at the time of transfer from TOKM.
2. Following several hui-ā-iwi, the iwi gave its assent to the establishment of an appropriate body to receive and manage their allocation and a deed was drafted. Te Whiringa Muka Trust (Te Whiringa Muka) was duly constituted on 1 October 2006. It was decided that the Trust's sole purpose was to receive and manage the assets of the Fisheries settlement on behalf of the hapū of Whanganui.
3. Whanganui Iwi Fisheries Limited is a NZ limited company that was established in 2006 as the commercial arm of Te Whiringa Muka. Since its establishment the company has actively traded its ACE to increase the profit shares for Te Whiringa Muka and ultimately the hapū of Whanganui.
4. Since 2006 Te Whiringa Muka, through Whanganui Iwi Fisheries Limited, has actively upheld and developed the Commercial and Customary (in conjunction with the Whanganui River Maori Trust Board) fisheries interests of Whanganui Iwi
5. Extensive work and collective agreement has been achieved throughout the years in terms of coastline agreements and in doing so bought about cohesion and collective commercial strategies with neighbouring iwi, Ngā Rauru Kīitahi and Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa.
6. Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui (Ngā Tāngata Tiaki) is the post-settlement governance entity for Whanganui Iwi for the purposes of the Whanganui River Settlement. Once the Settlement Bill (Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Bill) is enacted Te Whiringa Muka will be dissolved and their assets and liabilities will be vested in the trustees of Ngā Tāngata Tiaki to hold and manage for the hapū and beneficiaries of Whanganui Iwi. Any assets and liabilities of Whanganui Iwi Fisheries Limited, remain the assets and liabilities of that company and Ngā Tāngata Tiaki becomes the MIO (therefore replacing Te Whiringa Muka).
7. This document outlines Te Whiringa Muka, Whanganui Iwi Fisheries Limited and Ngā Tāngata Tiaki's collective position in regards to the consents sought by Trans-Tasman Resources Limited (TTRL).

TTRL's proposed activities

8. TTRL seeks marine consents and discharge consents to extract and process iron sand within the South Taranaki Bight.



WHANGANUI IWI FISHERIES LTD



9. The application identifies an area that covers 65.76 square kilometres (km²) of seabed between 22-36 kilometres offshore in waters between 20-42 metres deep. And it is understood that TTRL propose to extract and export up to 5 million tonnes of iron sand per year for up to 35 years.
10. The area identified includes resources and habitat for the life cycles and seasonal migration of fish that comprise the customary and commercial fish stocks of Whanganui Iwi.
11. Te Whiringa Muka, Whanganui Iwi Fisheries Limited and Ngā Tāngata Tiaki oppose the granting of the consents. The practice of extracting iron sand affects the mauri of Tangaroa and therefore the kawa central to our kaitiakitanga and the role of Whanganui Iwi in upholding that kaitiakitanga.
12. Te Whiringa Muka, Whanganui Iwi Fisheries Limited and Ngā Tāngata Tiaki are also concerned that the activities will have adverse implications for the rights and commercial interests for which Te Whiringa Muka, through Whanganui Iwi Fisheries Limited, hold and for cooperative enterprises that have been explored in conjunction with other Iwi of Te Taihauāuru. The rights of Whanganui Iwi in this regard are guaranteed under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the settlements it has reached with the Crown to date as well as future settlements.

Our position

13. Te Whiringa Muka, Whanganui Iwi Fisheries Limited and Ngā Tāngata Tiaki do not support the application.
14. Te Whiringa Muka, Whanganui Iwi Fisheries Limited and Ngā Tāngata Tiaki would like to be heard on this matter.

Ngā mihi

Jenny Tamakehu – Chair

TE WHIRINGA MUKA TRUST

Nancy Tuaine – Director Tuaine – Chair

WHANGANUI IWI FISHERIES LIMITED

Gerrard Albert – Chair

NGĀ TĀNGATA TIAKI O WHANGANUI

