

WAITANGI TRIBUNAL

WAI 3

CONCERNING the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

AND

A CLAIM by William Ohia and others relating to
a proposed sewage discharge, Rangataua
(Welcome Bay), Tauranga

Minister of Maori Affairs
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

In 1977 the Housing Corporation at Tauranga proposed to discharge sewage collected from 15 State houses into Welcome Bay. The Maori name for Welcome Bay is Rangataua.

On 13 April 1977 the Tauranga Executive of Maori Committees wrote to the Tribunal, stating that they objected to the proposed sewage discharge, and requesting the Tribunal to consider the matter. A formal claim was received on 13 June 1977.

The claimants asserted that shellfish which they habitually collected in the area, titiko and kuharu, would be adversely affected by the proposed discharge.

They also stated that Rangataua has traditionally been an important place for local Maori in historical and spiritual terms and that any discharge would be incompatible with this tradition.

On 10 August 1977 the claimants' counsel wrote to the Tribunal asking to withdraw the claim.

Letters subsequently received by the Tribunal from the Housing Corporation show that the corporation abandoned the sewage discharge plan and the water right obtained for it.

[An] alternative scheme was adopted, where sewage from the houses was collected in a tank, which was regularly pumped out at the expense of the corporation and disposed of within the Tauranga city's existing sewage disposal system.

The Tribunal has been informed that these houses are now connected to the city sewage reticulation scheme.

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No further correspondence from the claimants has been received.
For these reasons we will not be inquiring further into this claim.
Additional copies of this report will be sent to the Housing Corporation.

Dated at Wellington this 20th day of February 1990

Deputy Chief Judge A McHugh
Deputy Chairperson
for the Waitangi Tribunal