

RECEIVED Waitangi Tribunal
<b>3 Dec 2013</b>
Ministry of Justice WELLINGTON

**Wai 898, #3.3.548**

**OFFICIAL**

A Memorandum to: Judge D. Ambler  
Presiding Officer  
Te Rohe Potae District Inquiry

Re: **Brief of Evidence: "A History of the Tokanui Block"**

Teena koe e te Rangatira

I refer to the above and your recent direction that the above report be placed on the Wai 898, Te Rohe Potae Record of Inquiry. I also refer to your direction that as the author of that report, I should prepare of Brief of Evidence and present this at the upcoming hearing at Parawera Marae from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013, and to be available for questions and cross-examination.

Upon receipt of your direction and given the limited time frame, I immediately undertook to comply with your instruction and completed a draft of my brief, which was forwarded to Jason Pou, solicitor, acting on behalf of the Wai 440 claimants.

In order to appear at the hearing I also made arrangements to be home and arrived from Kalgoorlie, Western Australia (where I am resident) on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. All my effort and financial commitments thus far have been at my own expense.

I have just received notification from Mr Pou that CFRT are unable to meet any of my expenses or costs to appear, as the report was commissioned by the Tribunal. I have also received advice that the Tribunal is not in a position to contribute anything either. Having worked for the Tribunal I am acutely aware

of financial constraints and limited resources. However, I am also aware of the fact that all Tribunal commissionees are paid fair and reasonable costs for their reports and appearances.

I therefore wish to express my concern and disappointment at the current state of affairs. I have been working diligently since arriving back in the country to fine-tune my brief to the highest possible standards. With this latest news, however, I am seriously considering not bothering with my brief and not making an appearance next week.

I can't help but draw ironic parallels with the very issues I prepared my brief for. My people were persecuted, subjected to unfair and unreasonable treatment, on terms that favoured the Crown (Pakeha) – 150 years, not much has changed. The playing field will never be even.

I do not expect you to do anything, other than note that I may not be in attendance. However, in my opinion, if the Tribunal purports to seek all relevant and appropriate information for the purposes of its inquiry, then all those who contribute must be treated equally, otherwise it is just perpetuating the injustices of the past.

Heoi ano

Wayne WW Taitoko

