

The Māori Trustee submission on the Proposed Order in Council (OIC) Hawke's Bay Rural Recovery Work

July 2024

12 July 2024

Ministry for the Environment
Manatu Mo Te Taio
PO Box 10362
Wellington 6143

By email: severeweather@mfe.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Proposed Order in Council (OIC) Hawke's Bay Rural Recovery Work

1. Thank you for your invitation to share Te Tumu Paeroa's views on the proposed Order in Council (OIC) for Hawkes Bay Rural Recovery Works.

Background on the Māori Trustee and the Office of the Māori Trustee

2. The Māori Trustee administers, as trustee or agent, approximately 82,000 hectares of Māori freehold land on behalf of about 100,000 individual Māori landowners. Te Tumu Paeroa - the Office of the Māori Trustee, is the organisation that supports the Māori Trustee to carry out her statutory and other legal functions, roles and responsibilities. Additional information regarding the Māori Trustee and Te Tumu Paeroa can be found on Te Tumu Paeroa's website www.tetumupaeroa.co.nz.
3. Given the sheer scale and varied nature of the land assets within this portfolio, the views of Te Tumu Paeroa may not always be shared by all owners of whenua under administration.

Our concerns on the proposed OIC

Engagement with Owners of Māori land

4. The OIC process¹ currently does not address the scenario where a recovery proposal is applied for by a land occupier who is not the landowner (for example, a lessee).
5. The Key steps and processes in the proposed OIC need to reflect that if the recovery works proposer is not the landowner, the landowner(s), or their legal representative, needs to be

¹ Refer slide 15 of the Hawke's Bay Rural Recovery Works Proposed Order in Council Online hui presentation dated 2-12 July 2024.



identified and notified of the application and their written consent obtained prior to works commencing.

Geographic coverage of the OIC

6. It would be useful for the OIC to extend to rural recovery works in the Tairāwhiti Gisborne Region where Te Tumu Paeroa administer cyclone impacted land.

Time frame for application of proposed OIC

7. Te Tumu Paeroa thinks it may be overly optimistic to think that rural landowners will be able to complete cyclone recovery works between the commencement of the OIC (expected to be 1 September 2024) and the expiry date of (31 December 2025). So much of the work is weather dependent. Extending the expiry date through to at least 31 March 2026 would provide for another Spring-Summer buffer to allow this work to be completed.
8. Te Tumu Paeroa also considers that any notification by Council for authorising a commencement of works should provide for a default timeframe that aligns with the expiry date of the OIC.

Funding for OIC Rural Recovery Works

9. Te Tumu Paeroa is concerned that rural recovery works on Māori freehold land blocks authorised under the scope of this OIC are unlikely to occur unless funding is made available to the block landowner or occupier from central or regional government. This issue is particularly relevant to sheep and beef farming operations whose economic returns have been severely diminished by adverse domestic and global markets.

Conclusion

10. Te Tumu Paeroa would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matters raised in this letter with Ministry for the Environment officials. Please feel free to contact us by email at resource.management@tetumupaeroa.co.nz.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Dr Charlotte Severne_{ONZM}
Māori Trustee