

18 September 2020

Ginny Leggett
Senior Advisor – Kaitohutohu Mātāmua
New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

Chatham Island Maps

Tena koe Ginny,

I refer to your email of 4 September 2020. Your initial superficial reply to the serious issue raised by Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri is not adequate.

Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri is currently in negotiations with the Crown to settle our historic grievances under the Treaty of Waitangi. The outcome of these negotiations will be the re-setting of the Treaty partnership between Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri and the Crown so as to improve the current relationship to mutual long-term benefit. With that in view, we have been placing a lot of emphasis during negotiations on getting things right.

The details of the map the NZGB is intending to publish is important in this context. At 1840, the Chatham Islands was not part of New Zealand. It was only annexed in late 1842 by the Crown through a unilateral process that had no engagement with (let alone consent from) the population on Wharekauri. At that time, Wharekauri was under the complete sovereignty of Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri by virtue of their raupatu of all of Wharekauri completed in early 1836 following their arrival there in late 1835. Late 1842 is therefore the earliest date at which it can be argued for a commencement date of the Treaty of Waitangi relationship on the Chatham Islands. Accordingly, the use of 'circa' 1840 on the present map is too broad and historically misleading in that it attempts to elide two annexation events nearly three years apart. The earlier gave birth to the Treaty, the latter (we argue) was a major breach of an existing Treaty.

The NZGB should only publish a map of New Zealand as at 1840 that is historically and factually correct. It is therefore appropriate that the previous version of the map is reviewed by the NZGB because it is misleading with respect to the Chathams. NZGB maps should not obscure the annexation history of what now comprises New Zealand by converting a series of events into a single event.

There are two ways in which the new version of the map could make the necessary correction. The first is to retain the title "New Zealand circa 1840" in which case the Chatham Islands should be excluded from the map. Alternatively, if the NZGB intends to publish a map of New Zealand that includes the Chatham Islands it should be dated circa 1843. In that event, the map should only display names actually in use at 1843. The names on a c1843 map would not contain any Mori

names as those names had been replaced as part of the cultural process of raupatu and takahi eight years earlier.

The Crown has negotiated a settlement with Moriori of their historical grievances at the same time it is negotiating with Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri. Each settlement is distinctive in its own right with many overlapping elements that remain unclear until our Settlement is also finalised. We are fully aware of the details contained in the Moriori settlement and do not need to be told by you what has been agreed to between the Crown and Moriori. The Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Treaty Settlement negotiations are still proceeding and have not yet reached the AIP stage. It is important that the NZGB does not unwittingly intrude on, or anticipate the outcome of, those negotiations. The best way of avoiding problems is to adopt a more fastidious approach to historical accuracy than was the case with the old map.

None of the Moriori settlement details provide the NZGB with a licence to re-write or misrepresent history on its maps. We wish to meet directly with the NZGB to discuss this issue. Please convey this request and our comments directly to the NZGB. In our view, the best way of doing this is to place this letter before the Board without supplementation with the kind of supercilious remarks contained in your email to us.

Naku noa na,



Tom McClurg

Lead Negotiator, Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust