

Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust

*Chatham Island Council
Landfill Resource Consent Application 2013*

Submission – August 2013

Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust

Name of the Submitter

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We wish to attend and submit at hearings on the submission.

Signed:



Ward Kamo
Trust Secretary
Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust

9 August 2013

Introduction

The Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust (“the Trust”) represents the collective interests of Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri (NMOW), and is a mandated iwi authority for the purposes of the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Māori Fisheries Act 2004. Although the Trust speaks for NMOW on a number of matters, the mana and decision-making powers remain with NMOW, according to NMOW tikanga/kawa. This then forms the basis for this submission from the Trust to the Chatham Islands Council (CIC).

Our Purpose

- To be the repository of the collective Tino Rangatiratanga of Ngāti Mutunga O Wharekauri
- To represent the collective interest of Ngāti Mutunga O Wharekauri and be the legal representative of Ngāti Mutunga O Wharekauri in relation to the collective interest
- To make and pursue the settlement of claims on behalf and for the benefit of Ngāti Mutunga O Wharekauri under the provisions of the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975
- To be the mandated iwi organisation for Ngāti Mutunga O Wharekauri

Requirement to Designate Land

Position

The effective disposal of waste products (and by-products) is an essential service and requirement of Council. The Iwi Trust is clear that the issue is not one of whether the activity should occur, but rather, the manner in which the activity is conducted.

The Trust notes Council seeks resource consents to authorise the discharge of contaminants (solid waste) to land, contaminants (leachate and storm water) to land and groundwater, and contaminants (odour, dust & landfill gas) to air in relation to the landfill proposal.

In preparing this submission, the Iwi Trust has had the opportunity to view the submission of our whanaunga via the Hokotehi Moriori Trust (HMT). Much of our submission shares commonality with the HMT submission.

The Iwi Trust is in full agreement with HMT regarding specific recognition of Moriori as a distinct tangata whēnua Iwi on the island. We are equally exercised to ensure that non-specific references to ‘Maori’ are changed to ‘Moriori and Ngāti Mutunga’.

We agree with the HMT assertion that any soil / site 'borrowings' should occur within the context of a broader study of the area in question. Our initial views on the decommissioning of Te One refer.

We note the initial view of Susan Thorpe of Kotuku Consultancy Limited. We are unclear what work was undertaken by Susan Thorpe and look forward to receipt of her archaeological assessment in full. This work will reassure Ngāti Mutunga and we look forward to putting her mahi back to those in Ngāti Mutunga she consulted with.

Visual Amenity Values

We note the assurances that the proposed height of the landfill cap will not be visible outside the landfill area. We are equally reassured by the proposal to plant a belt of trees as both shelter from prevailing winds and as visual screening.

We are however, concerned that current catch fences may not prevent windblown materials from escaping the confines of the landfill. We appreciate the winds that blow through that area and the difficulty this presents in effectively managing windblown materials. The site management plan will, we expect, fully detail daily and ongoing management of windblown materials.

Site Management

The Iwi Trust supports the landfill not being open to the public. The operation of designated transfer stations will enable better control of what waste enters the site. The establishment of transfer stations may also make it possible to engage in the compacting and bailing activities proposed by HMT in their submission. The Iwi Trust would be keen to discuss this proposal further with council.

Waste Types Not Covered in the Application

We note that the proposed landfill designation and consent does not cover dumping of septic tank waste, sludge and fish waste in the landfill. Rather, provision has been made for this to occur at a later stage. We acknowledge this but are clear the current application cannot occur in isolation of a broader discussion on management of the excluded waste products. Septic tank disposal is at an acute stage for Wharekauri as the past year has shown.

Conclusion

The Trust thanks Council for the opportunity to submit on the Landfill Application 2013. We reiterate our commitment to sharing knowledge and resources for the long term benefit (and viability) of our island.

Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust welcomes the opportunity to discuss this application further with Council.



Ward Kamo
Trust Secretary
Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust