

**IN THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL OF
NEW ZEALAND**

WAI 423

IN THE MATTER OF The Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

AND

IN THE MATTER OF The Hauraki Regional Inquiry WAI 686

AND

**IN THE MATTER OF the claims of TE WARENA TAUA and
EMILY KARAKA on behalf of NGAI
TAI KI TAMAKI**

BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF JOSEPHINE JOAN CAMERON

McCAW LEWIS CHAPMAN
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1. My name is JOSEPHINE JOAN CAMERON. I am a descendant of Hori Te Whetuki. My great-grandmother is Pare Mita Kirkwood. She was a signatory to the 1924 petition to Parliament which sought compensation for the confiscation lands known as the East Wairoa Block. This block forms part of the Wai 423 claim before the Tribunal.
2. I am currently a trustee of the Ngai Tai Ki Tamaki Tribal Trust which was incorporated on 17 August 1992. I am also the Health spokesperson for the Trust and the Ngai Tai representative on Manawhenua I Tamaki Makaurau, which is a collective of iwi and hapu within the geographic area of the Counties Manukau District Health Board. The forum has been established to reduce Maori health disparities. I have worked with Maori communities at a national, regional and local level for many years and was awarded the New Zealand 1990 Commemoration Medal in recognition of services to New Zealand. I present this evidence to the Tribunal today as a trustee of the Trust and as a member of the iwi, Ngai Tai.
3. My evidence today will focus on the impact of the breaches of the Treaty by the Crown. The evidence of Gael Ferguson clearly demonstrates that Ngai Tai has lost most of its land and other natural resources. As a result, we have not had the opportunity to use our resources as a source of identity (our turangawaewae) and to develop an economic base. As a result today like many other Maori, Ngai Tai are a dispossessed and fragmented iwi.
4. I am one of the few Ngai Tai who has been brought up living on what was once ancestral Ngai Tai land. I am also fortunate that I was brought up aware of my Ngai Tai background. However I am aware that many of my whanaunga have not had the same opportunities and have been dispossessed from our lands, traditions and practices. Many Ngai Tai today have lost their tribal identity and live outside our tribal rohe.
5. A major impact of Crown breaches is the difficulty we face trying to re-establish our tribal identity.

Representation

6. An example of this difficulty is the on-going dispute as to who represents the interests of Ngai Tai.
7. Historically Ngai Tai was represented on and by the Tainui Maori Trust Board (TMTB). Currently the Hauraki Maori Trust Board (HMTB) purport to represent Ngai Tai. In my view Ngai Tai are an iwi in their own right and do not need to be represented by others. In 1992 the issue of representation for our iwi were discussed at a Ngai Tai hui-a-iwi held at Umupuia.
8. At the end of the hui a Steering Committee consisting of various Ngai Tai people was given mandate to progress the issue about our relationship with TMTB and HMTB and importantly our future as an iwi.
9. In August 1992, another hui was held at Umupuia to discuss the recommendations made by the Steering Committee. In short various Ngai Tai members decided to create our own legal entity to reflect our intention to control and manage our own destiny. This expressed desire was later reflected in the establishment of the Ngai Tai Ki Tamaki Tribal Trust.
10. We are aware that some Ngai Tai members support the HMTB, for example the Zister-Wai 96 claim and supporters. The issue was discussed and clarified by the Waitangi Tribunal in its 1993 Report on South Auckland Railway Land. Following discussion about the representation issue the Tribunal recommended that the Crown should treat separately with the Ngai Tai Ki Tamaki Trust for the general purposes of Ngai Tai and with the HMTB in respect of the interests covered by the Zister claim.

Impact

11. We have lost our land and to some extent our identity. We are forced to create legal entities, incur significant costs and time to get recognition by the Crown, our own people and by various funding agencies. If we had a sufficient land

base and clear identity these representation issues which dominate our time would be less significant. I say that there is a clear link between the Crown's breaches of the Treaty in taking our land and failing to protect our taonga that has exacerbated the representation and identity issues for Ngai Tai.

12. Even after most of our tribal land base has been alienated, the Crown makes it difficult by insisting that the Trust pay income tax, even though its objects are clearly charitable. To me this is another injustice and yet another example of the Crown breaching the Treaty of Waitangi.
13. I understand that there is a national review being undertaken to review the eligibility of Maori entities for tax exemption. I look forward to change so that Maori hapu and iwi who, in some cases, have been dispossessed of their entire economic base can begin to develop and participate on an equal footing.
14. My evidence today is in support of our Wai 423 claim but also in support of the Maori groups who battle on a daily basis with the same representation issues.

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