

Wānanga mō Te Ratonga Whenua Māori

Key Insights – Masterton

Wānanga on proposed Māori Land Service

29 September 2016

8 Attendees

Whatungarongaro te tangata, toitū te whenua.

As man disappears from sight, the land remains.

“To Māori, land is everything. Land provides our sense of identity, belonging, and continuity.”

Disclaimer: This document contains information collected from the Wānanga held on the above date. It is a record of the key insights and is not a verbatim recording of the Wānanga. This material is one of a number of design inputs that will inform the final design of the proposed Māori Land Service.

Masterton – Wānanga tables



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Key insights from wānanga tables (written and oral)

1. Information - Clarity of information and simplifying information

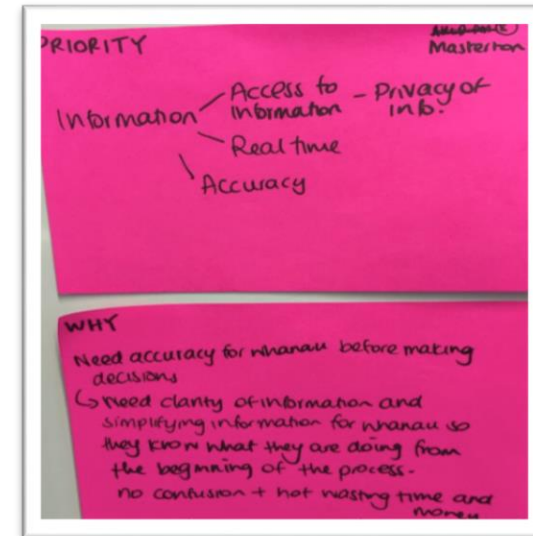
- In order to succeed, we need clarity of information and ease of access so whānau can do this easily and not waste time, effort and money
- Finding information online with particular services - LINZ these come at a cost, there needs to be a budget
- There is a need for real time information
- Setting up the service – how MLS taps into whānau here regarding information gathering and finding missing owners
- Finding owners is a big issue in Wairarapa, there are a number of missing owners and finding them is both a time consuming and thankless task
- There is fragmentation on Māori land blocks, trust and governance and priorities around that.

3. Succession – to Māori land interests. With ownership ever increasing, how do we protect against the challenges of fragmentation?

- Absentee owners - ahi kaa are left with the responsibility
- Regarding wills: sometimes whānau leave a will and sometimes they do not (or the whenua is not in it)
- A number of succession issues result from various factors such as differing marriages.

2. Whānau Trusts - Setting up the trust – is this the job of the Māori Land Service? As MLC do this now. If this is MLS's role, it will be a very responsible role. What will the process be and how will they engage with Māori land owners?

- Idea - We need a series of wānanga prior to establishing land trusts and appointing trustees. We need to try and find the best people for the job, rather than turn up to hui and pick people that are there, and they are appointed
- Trust board members live out of town so work falls on ahi kaa
- Trustee training and education is key so trustees know their responsible duties and who they are accountable to and for.



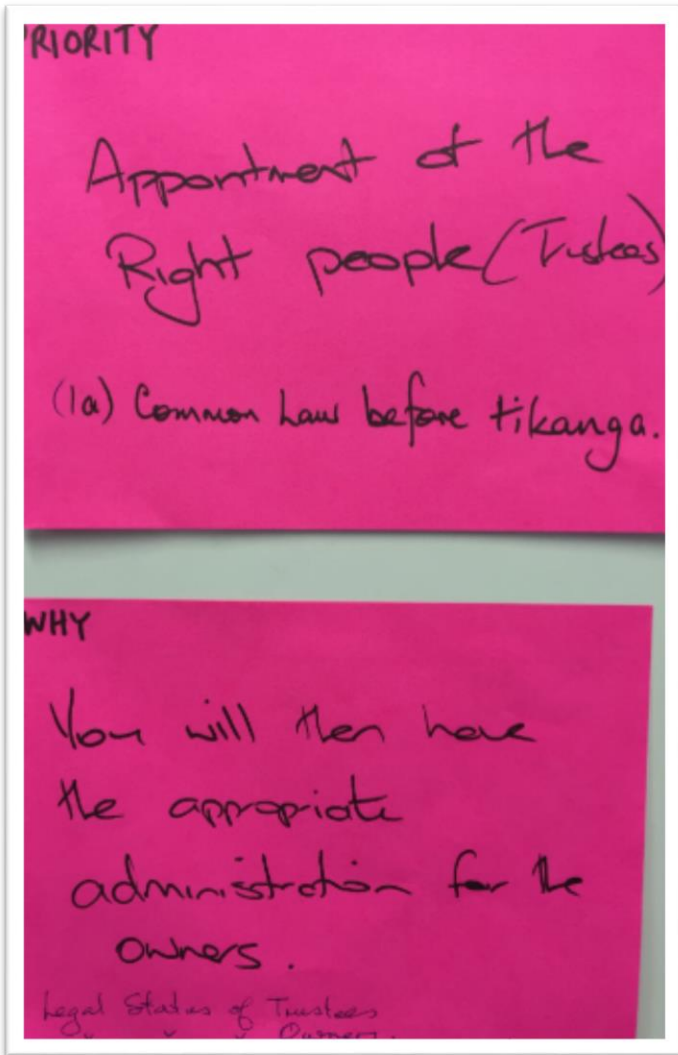
4. Privacy issues how data is held, and how owners access it?

- Protecting our information, ensuring confidentiality and laws apply
- Need passwords to access information from MLS.

How do we clarify the role and relationship between the Māori Land Court and proposed Māori Land Service?

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Key insights from wānanga tables (written and oral)



APPOINTMENT OF THE RIGHT PEOPLE TO BE TRUSTEES

- Our key issues are about the future use of whenua and appropriate administration
- There can often be tension between trustees and beneficial owners/trustees, there needs to be a clear legal status between the two
- Some cases are different – but try and reconcile the differences
- We need to think about how to appoint the right administrators for the owners. Appointing the right trustees is key to a healthy trust
 - If that is achieved, then every block has appropriate trustees who are active and doing their job properly then the possibility of conflict will lessen
 - If they are doing the job properly then there is no need to have trustee activities monitored, we won't have MLS / MLC reviewing compliance and checking
 - This supports accountability back to owners and that is where majority of Māori Land owners want
 - If we get the core right and then everything else will be easier.
- Within the Māori Land Court, Judges are applying tikanga rather than common law. What should be applied in each case?