

Te Aukaha Information Paper # 3 Key Issues for Māori Landowners

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide a summary of a foundational document that identifies key issues for Māori landowners in respect of He Waka Eke Noa and establishes valid positions in respect of the following six workstreams: (1) Supporting Early Action; (2) Extension; (3) Innovation; (4) On-Farm Planning; (5) On-Farm Sequestration; and (6) On-Farm Emissions Pricing.

Background

Aotearoa is presented with an opportunity to take a leadership role in aiding the reduction of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, under He Waka Eke Noa. He Waka Eke Noa is a partnership agreement between Māori, the Primary Industry and Government, to work together and develop a programme that aims to reduce the agricultural emissions of Aotearoa, build our resilience to climate change, equip farmers to act on climate change and to protect, restore, and sustain our environment.

Drawing on its vast network FOMA has convened Te Aukaha which connects and brings together Māori agribusiness experts at a governance, technical and farming level to ensure a traditional Māori perspective is integrated throughout the work that is progressed across the HWEN programme.

Key issues for Māori landowners

In response to He Waka Eke Noa, Te Aukaha developed a foundational document that identifies key issues for Māori landowners, and establishes valid positions in respect of the following six workstreams: (1) Supporting Early Action; (2) Extension; (3) Innovation; (4) On-Farm Planning; (5) On-Farm Sequestration; and (6) On-Farm Emissions Pricing. It is noted that not all these workstreams are explicitly recognised as workstreams under the He Waka Eke Noa Primary sector climate change commitment. However, they are more broadly discussed within He Waka Eke Noa and recognised as important workstreams by Te Aukaha.

The report is firstly guided by He Māhere Taiao - a Te Ao Māori framework that is used to inform the development of the climate change work programme for Te Aukaha, which must also be the guiding framework for discussions within He Waka Eke Noa. Secondly, the report acknowledges that the following positions, must be considered for each of the six workstreams:

- **Acknowledging Te Ao Māori** - A Te Ao Māori perspective must be integrated throughout all mahi, recognising the holistic lens through which intertemporal and interspatial matters related to climate change can be addressed.

- **Acknowledging Te Tiriti o Waitangi** - The Crown has significant Treaty obligations, including the duty to honour and give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The government's actions and inaction can constitute a breach of the Crown's duty of active protection.
- **Acknowledging Climate Change** - FOMA supports the science behind climate change and the contribution of the Māori agribusiness sector to this. However, the support to act against climate change impacts is conditioned.
- **Acknowledging that Māori continue to be disadvantaged** - Actions, and inactions taken by the Crown have accumulated to the point that Māori continue to be disadvantaged. This must be corrected.

Whilst our emission profile as a country is relatively small on an international scale, we pride ourselves on contributing to the greater good. For Iwi Māori, an inherent obligation is embedded in our being to protect the domains of Ranginui-e-tū-nei and Papatūānuku, while respecting their rangatiratanga. Decisions related to natural resources, their sanctity, and their use, is founded on mātauranga observed over many generations and applied with future generations in mind.

Unfortunately, as Māori we find ourselves in a familiar position where we are asked to contribute to an issue we did not accelerate. This issue has the potential to create further grievance, disparity, and inequality. Although we will begrudgingly participate in climate action on a national scale because we are committed to look after our whenua and our mokopuna, we are adamant that we will determine what our participation looks like.

Acknowledgement

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Further Information

This paper provides a summary of the fuller positions paper report, which can be found

[FOMA Te Aukaha Foundation Document](#)

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