

section 3.6 |



appendix 1

Context and process

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3.6 Maori Consultation programme: the process

Introduction

The Commission’s terms of reference (its Warrant) required it to consult widely with the public in a way that allowed people to express clearly their views on the use in New Zealand of genetic modification, genetically modified organisms and products.

The Warrant specified a requirement:

to consult and engage with Maori in a manner that specifically provides for their needs

Among the matters which the Commission was required to investigate and receive representations upon were the following items:

- (g) the Crown’s responsibilities under the Treaty of Waitangi in relation to genetic modification, genetically modified organisms, and products
- (j) the main areas of public interest in genetic modification, genetically modified organisms, and products, including those related to —
 - (iv) cultural and ethical concerns
- (k) the key strategic issues drawing on ethical, cultural, environmental, social, and economic risks and benefits arising from the use of genetic modification, genetically modified organisms and products

Thus, besides the Commission’s objectives and responsibilities in establishing the public consultation programme, it was also charged with consulting with Maori in a manner that specifically provided for Maori needs and cultural and ethical concerns, and the Crown’s responsibilities under the Treaty of Waitangi. The Maori Consultation programme was one of several options available to Maori to participate in the inquiry. These included Formal Hearings, Public Submissions, a Youth Forum, Public Meetings and a public opinion survey. This section outlines the process involved in specifically consulting with Maori. Analysis of the outcomes is included in Appendix 3 (see “Analysis of Maori Consultation programme: oral and written submissions from Hui”).

Establishing the Maori Consultation Programme

The Commission decided to meet and discuss with Maori the most appropriate methods for conducting a Maori Consultation programme.

Initial hui

With the assistance of the Kaumatua Council of Te Arawa, Bishop Manu Bennett and Te Puni Kokiri, the Commission held an initial hui at Tunohopu Marae, Ohinemutu, Rotorua, on 21 July 2000 to seek input into defining an appropriate consultation process for Maori. Thirty-four people, together with the four Commissioners and Commission officials, attended the hui.

Participants at this scoping hui expressed a desire for independence from government agencies in organisation of the Maori Consultation programme. The Commission noted the outcome of the initial hui and the views expressed and said it would formulate a process with an appropriate time frame and resources.

Maori Consultation programme organisation

After further consideration, the Commission compiled a consultation programme of 28 regional workshops and 10 Regional Hui throughout New Zealand from 24 October 2000 to 10 March 2001, culminating in a National Hui at Turangawaewae Marae, Ngaruawahia, on 6–8 April 2001. An independent consultant was appointed to manage the programme.

The different elements of the Maori Consultation programme had the following objectives:

- The workshops were intended to inform Maori regarding the Commission, its terms of reference and the submission process..
- The 10 Regional Hui were intended to provide a familiar and reasonably accessible venue for Maori to make submissions.
- The National Hui would double as a Regional Hui for the King Country, Waikato and Counties areas and also as a hui which representatives from the 10 completed Regional Hui could attend and korero about the results of the hui in their regions, and so provide a composite view of the results of the Commission's workshop and Regional Hui consultation programme.

The Commission sought to provide as much opportunity as possible for people to attend meetings. Workshops were held from Kaikohe to Invercargill and Regional Hui from Whangarei to Dunedin. Suitable times and venues were discussed with

local iwi organisations and Te Puni Kokiri provided occasional administrative assistance. The complete schedule of workshops and hui is published later in this volume (see “Operational detail: Maori Consultation programme: Schedule of workshops and hui”).

Advertising and publicity of Maori Consultation programme

A combination of advertising methods and publicity exercises was used to inform Maori of the workshops and hui on a national and regional basis.

Notification of the Maori Consultation programme was first made in a nationally distributed news release to media on 4 October 2000. Regionalised advertisements were placed in national dailies from 18 October 2000. In addition, a series of three radio advertisements with localised content was aired on Maori radio stations from 17 October 2000.

A panui (in English and Maori) was faxed directly to iwi organisations, marae, and specialist Maori, community and metropolitan media throughout New Zealand on 10 October 2000. The panui was also placed on the websites of the Commission and Maori organisations.

Localised reminder ‘posters’, panui and news releases were issued to community and Maori media, iwi organisations and marae by fax and/or email in the weeks immediately preceding the Regional Hui to augment the advertising campaign. These were followed up with phone calls to local media by Secretariat staff.

The workshops and hui received media coverage in local community and metropolitan newspapers and on radio and television stations both before and after the events.

Workshops

The workshops focused on providing information on the role and tasks of the Commission and how, where and when to make a submission to it.

The workshop programme consisted of:

- mihimihi
- description of the role and work of the Commission
- description of how to make a written and/or oral submission to the Commission
- description of how a Regional Hui with the Commission would operate
- provision of an information pack on genetic modification

- presenting an Environmental Risk Management Authority video providing a Maori perspective on genetic modification issues
- discussion of the submission process.

Although some information on genetic modification was made available at the workshops (by way of an information pack containing the Commission's background papers on the subject), it was made clear that emphasis would be placed on imparting information about the Commission and the submission process, rather than educating attendees about genetic modification or debating the issues. Where time permitted, however, discussion was encouraged to help formulate and coordinate ideas for a possible submission to the Commission.

The workshops were of approximately two hours' duration and preceded the Regional Hui in the area. For example, before the first Regional Hui in Wanganui on 4 November 2000, workshops were held at Palmerston North, Wanganui and New Plymouth on 24, 25 and 26 October 2000, respectively. Attendance number varied from four (Kaikohe) to over 30 (Te Kuiti).

Regional Hui

All except one of the 10 Regional Hui (from Whangarei to Dunedin) were marae-based and attended by at least three Commissioners. Formal marae protocol was observed in all cases and the Commission was accompanied to all the Regional Hui, except one, by Te Arawa kaumatua and kuia, Pihopa Kingi and Inez Kingi. Officials attending included an interpreter.

Each Regional Hui was conducted over one day and provided a formal channel in a marae setting for Maori to present oral and/or written submissions directly to the Commission. Most of the Regional Hui were held on Saturdays.

The regional hui programme consisted of:

- powhiri
- statement by the Commission on its purpose and inquiry process
- description of the day's agenda and process
- submissions (oral and written) to the Commission
- selection of representatives from the hui to attend the National Hui
- closing statement by the Commission.

All the Regional Hui were chaired by a member of the local community.

Each submitter was allocated 15 minutes to make a submission. All oral submissions were taped (except where submitters requested that they be not) to

form part of the Commission’s records. Submitters were able to make presentations in English or Maori. Most submitters greeted the Commission in Maori and made their main presentation in English. Submissions made in Maori were translated simultaneously for the Commission.

People who had prepared written submissions in most cases presented them orally as well.

Written submissions ranged from a substantial number of typed pages to single-sheet handwritten notes, and some were notes for oral submissions.

Submissions and views were presented by a range of groups and individuals, including national Maori organisations, Maori doctors and health practitioner groups, iwi organisations, rangatahi groups, university lecturers, specialised Maori organic food groups, Maori lawyers, land trusts, and individuals (Maori and non-Maori).

The marae-based hui format and the presence of the Commission at all Regional Hui provided Maori with an accessible, familiar, open, free-flow forum to present their submissions, written or oral, directly to the Commissioners, kanohi ki te kanohi.

National Hui

The National Hui was held at Turangawaewae Marae, Ngaruawahia on 6–8 April 2001. The Commission provided funding for travel and marae accommodation for two representatives from each of the 10 Regional Hui to attend the National Hui.

The National Hui doubled as a Regional Hui for the King Country, Waikato and Counties region. A major part of the National Hui was spent hearing submissions from those areas. Representatives from the other 10 Regional Hui were allotted time to speak during the formal part of the hui but only after the local submissions had finished.

On the evening of 7 April, many of those attending the hui continued to meet and korero among themselves without the Commission members present. At the next hui session on the morning of Sunday, 8 April, the group presented 16 recommendations on genetic modification to the hui. The hui endorsed these recommendations and then presented them to the Commission.

These recommendations are reported in full in Appendix 3.