

# Māori GIS Conference

## Māori Land Court GIS Initiative

13 May 2009

NGAI TAHU GIS CONFERENCE

OTAUTAHI

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MINISTRY OF  
**JUSTICE**  
*Tāhū o te Ture*

# Tohu

- Mihi
- Māori Land Court History and Purpose
- Māori Land Tenure Issues
- Issues Faced by Māori Land Owners
- Improvement Initiatives
- GIS Initiative
- Strategic Benefits of using GIS
- Patai

# Te Kooti Whenua Māori

## History

- Established in 1865 as the Native Land Court.
- Known as the Māori Land Court since 1954.
- Initial role was to define the land rights of Māori people under Māori custom and to translate those rights or customary titles into land titles recognisable under European law.
- Native Land Act 1909 – Enabled the Court to start restricting Crown purchase of undivided shares in Māori freehold land. Was the basis for the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.
- 1970s – The Māori Land Court become charged with the role of encouraging retention and utilisation of Māori land in the hands of its owners.



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# Te Kooti Whenua Māori

## Current role and purpose

### Statutory Responsibility

- Administers the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993

*"...it is the intention of Parliament that powers, duties, and discretions conferred by this Act shall be exercised, as far as possible, in a manner that facilitates and promotes the retention, use, development and control of Maori land as taonga tuku iho by Maori owners, their whanau, their hapu, and their descendants."*

### Role

- Promotes the management of Māori land by its owners by maintaining the records of title and ownership information of Māori land
- Services the Māori Land Courts and related Tribunals
- Provides land information from the Māori Land Court and Crown agencies.
- Contributes to the administration of Maori land
- Preserves taonga Māori

### Primary Functions

- A court registry providing assistance to applicants
- Judicial support
- Case processing of applications for land and new jurisdictions
- Commercial affairs registry in respect of Māori incorporation and trust activities
- Archival of the record of Court
- Advisory service for customers of the Court



# Māori Land Tenure Key Issues

- **Systemic lack of infrastructure and capability for development and retention of Maori Land since 1865 – led to alienation of 95% of Maori customary land to European freehold land.**
- **Entrenched succession leading to ownership fragmentation of Maori land**
- **Difficulty in tracing ownership, size and precise location of land due to incomplete records of owners and inheritors**
- **Complexity of ownership impediment to administration, utilisation, title maintenance and income distribution**

# Cont-Māori Land Tenure Key Issues

- **Multiple ownership / fragmentation of ownership makes it difficult to use land or get agreement from owners on land development options – e.g. land locked from use despite being adjacent to highly productive land and located in a market driven economic environment.**
- **Un-surveyed blocks and irrational partitions make effective and legal land use difficult**
- **Fragmentation of land has created small and uneconomic shareholdings and units often leading to abandonment**
- **Lack of a comprehensive inventory of spatially mapped Maori freehold land with all relevant interests and attributes impedes economic development .**

# Mokopuna are the issues still the same



# Issues faced by Māori Land Owners

- **Lack of easy access to comprehensive and accurate information on their land interests and assets**
- **Multiple sources of information present a fragmented view Maori land and other assets impeding strategic management and development.**
- **Lack of social / cultural connection to land and other interests**
- **Inadequate delivery of services to Maori**
- **Impact on ability to negotiate settlements fairly and quickly**

# Improvement Initiatives

- **Maori Freehold Land Registration Project**
- **Restructure of the Maori Land Court (including a technology assets review)**
- **GIS Initiative**

# GIS Initiative

- **Enterprise GIS database for use by MLC and key external stakeholders**
- **Comprehensive information on all land tenures including full inventory of Maori Freehold land**
- **Will combine information from the National Index held currently on the MLC Maori Land Information System with spatially mapped Maori Freehold parcels.**
- **A web portal that will provide access to information on the GIS database**

# Will be implemented in a staged manner

- **Stage 1 – Establish core infrastructure, core data layers, web portal and enquiry access to key stakeholders**
- **Stage 2 – Enhance spatial capabilities, enhanced data layers, more functionality to key stakeholders, access provided to additional stakeholders**
- **Stage 3 – Specialist data layers and fulfilment of enhancement requests**

# Key Business Benefits of using GIS

## Māori Land Court

- Improved Māori Land Court capability and services – in the areas of Judicial, Case Management and Advisory services and support, legislative compliance and significantly more effective support for the principles of the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.
- Economic benefit to Māori Land Owners through increased retention, occupation and utilisation of Māori land.
- Increased awareness of cultural identity and connectedness to Māori land that contributes to the national identity and economic prosperity for Māori.
- Enhanced research and analysis support for Treaty negotiations and settlements that leads to more fairer and equitable Treaty settlements and outcomes.
- Enhanced policy advice and implementation of policy initiatives that benefits Māori and contributes to their social, cultural and economic development.
- Reduced departmental investment for Ministry of Justice that eliminates duplicated investment in GIS technology and infrastructure.
- Comprehensive inventory of Maori land that is spatially mapped and includes all relevant attributes and interests.

## Māori Land Owners

- Financial Perspective- increase stakeholder value
- Productivity strategy to increase asset utilisation and improve costs structure
- Revenue & Growth Strategy- Expand revenue opportunities
- Enhance beneficiaries & shareholder value
- Build Information Capital for current and new business
- Create alignment to build new business products & services
- Improve internal processes with high quality information
- Add value to the any commercial or business brands
- One stop information system built to business requirements
- Enhance investment and business decision making
- Reduce turnaround time of financial business case preparation

# PATAI