



Marine and Coastal Area Bill 2010

Supplementary presentation

Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka

Stewart Rewiti Bull

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- Chair person Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka
- Representative Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
- Rakiura Tītī Islands Administering Body
- Tītī Committee (beneficial tītī islands)
- Guardians of Fiordland
- Conservation Board Member
- Whenua Hou Committee Member
- Te Puka-Hereka/Coal Island Trust



Stewart with manuhiri on Rarotoka - Te Takutai o te Tītī in the background.

Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka

The Rūnaka is one of the 18 members of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (Te Rūnanga), a body corporate established by statute to, amongst other things, act as the representative body of Ngāi Tahu Whānui. The Rūnaka has its own legal identity; the Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka Incorporated Society.

The Rūnaka is committed supporting Te Rūnanga to protect the rights and interests of all Ngāi Tahu within the Ngāi Tahu Takiwā, and has a particular role to play in protecting the rights and interests of Ngāi Tahu within the takiwā of Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka (as described in schedule 1 of the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996).

Our takiwā means that we have an extensive and remote coastline and, given that it extends southwards "until the land turns white" and extensive area of seabed over which we hold mana whenua mana moana. We share some of this responsibility with other Papatipu Rūnanga as set out in the Te Rūnanga Act.



Our marae is named Te Takutai o te Titī - our very identity is inextricably linked to the coastal and marine area of our takiwā

Tītī Islands

Rakiura Māori have had exclusive rights to occupy and use the tītī islands since time immemorial.

However, the ownership of all the tītī islands was transferred to the Crown during the Rakiura Purchase in 1864 although the 18 beneficial tītī islands were held "on trust" for the original owners. The Crown returned full ownership status to the beneficial owners in 1983.

The other 18 islands now known as the Rakiura Tītī Islands were returned to Ngāi Tahu ownership under the Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement.

Despite the exclusive rights to occupy the islands Rakiura Māori did not qualify for any substantive remedies under the 2004 Act.

This Bill does not provide any greater recognition for Rakiura Māori than the 2004 Act.



Left - generations of tītī have used this tree to launch themselves into the air as they leave Putuahinu

Below - Taukihepa



Rarotoka

Ownership claimed by Crown under the Murihiku Deed of Purchase 1856 although Crown ownership disputed by Ngāi Tahu. Rarotoka was used as a lighthouse reserve until returned to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu in 1998.

Rarotoka is predator free and naturally hosts several endangered species including Hoiho (yellow eyed penguin) and is assessed as being suitable for hosting other critically endangered species.

Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka as kaitiaki rūnanga are engaged in an extensive restoration program in partnership with DoC and the community.

Since 2004 we no longer have the right to control landings on the island to protect the predator free status of Rarotoka or the species who reside on the island.

This Bill does not resolve this issue.



This photo was taken November 2010. Less than 50 metres from shore this fishing boat had on board a fox terrier. Since 2004 the owners of this boat have a right to land on the foreshore of Rarotoka without our permission with the risk of bringing ashore pests and a dog capable of killing endangered species resident on Rarotoka.

Fiordland

Ngāi Tahu have never agreed to sell Fiordland and have continued to use and occupy the area since Captain Cook first encountered our tipuna there.

Our mode of travel may have changed but our commitment to act as kaitiaki there has not.

Neither the 2004 Act or this Bill recognises our traditional and customary rights to the whole of the takiwā of Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka.

