

Feedback on the Ngāti Paoa Claims Settlement Bill¹

Tēnā koutou

Thank you for this formal opportunity to submit on the Settlement Bill. I'd like to congratulate Ngāti Paoa on the settlement and hope the whole iwi, govt and community can now move forward together with more unity.

About the Point England Bird Sanctuary (PEBS)

PEBS has been looking after the shorebirds that roost, feed and nest a Point England since 2013. This has involved hundreds of volunteer hours of monitoring, trapping, weeding and community engagement.

Our engagement with the Development Act

Neither Government or tangata whenua engaged with PEBS before the 2017 Point England Development Act. PEBS spent many weeks of volunteer time explaining the environmental values of the site^{2,3} including presenting at hearings in Wellington and Auckland. PEBS also had many on and off site meetings with representatives from Ngāti Paoa. Our last communication was with Lea Lombard and Hayden Solomon in November 2020 where we pleaded them to consider declining and conservation dependant shorebirds. Central government has never consulted with us. The Development Act has had poor environmental outcomes for Wai O Taiki and so will this Settlement Bill.

Concerns

It's worth noting PEBS (and the 1,848 people who signed our Development Act petition) never opposed the Development Act in full, we just asked that an Environmental Impact Assessment was done, so that losses might be mitigated. We still don't know if that will happen. The Settlement Bill will reduce of public amenity values and have significant environmental impacts. We were cc'd in an email from John Hutton on the 29th of July which suggested the iwi plan to plant habitat to offset environmental losses. It is not possible to plant shorebird habitat. 82% of Aoteroa New Zealand's shorebirds are classified as threatened with or at risk of extinction⁴.

¹ https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/53SCMA_SCF_BILL_130341/ng%C4%81ti-paoa-claims-settlement-bill

² https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/document/51SCLGE_EVI_00DBHOH_BILL72004_1_A546239/point-england-bird-sanctuary

³ <https://savepe.org.nz/media/evidence-shaun-lee.pdf>

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Submission points:

1. We are deeply disappointed that the Government and Ngāti Paoa were not able to find a better way to settle the claims and object to the lack of consultation.
2. The costs of mitigating impacts on shorebirds have not been considered in the settlement. Our understanding is that these costs will be unfairly worn by the Ngāti Paoa.
3. We are very supportive of the name change from Point England Reserve to Omaru Reserve, the name 'Point England' was terribly colonial.
4. We congratulate Ngāti Paoa on the settlement and look forward to working with a united iwi on projects to heal te taio.

Ngā mihi

Point England Bird Sanctuary

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