

Submissions

To

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Proposed Petroleum Block Offers 2013

Date: 30 January 2013

Submitter: Abraham Witana

Organization: Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa

Number of Individuals we represent: Approximately 15,000.¹

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Signed:

Handwritten signature of Abraham Witana in blue ink.

¹ Based on the 2006 Census iwi population count. However, on our own iwi estimations our iwi population is nearer to 30,000.

1. INTRODUCTION

Te Runanga o Te Rarawa is the iwi authority representing the interests of the marae and hapu that make up the iwi of Te Rarawa. The Runanga is made up of one Trustee and one alternate Trustee for each of the affiliated marae in the rohe of Te Rarawa. Currently there are 23 marae affiliated. The traditional rohe of Te Rarawa is described as the area from Hokianga to Maungataniwha, down through Victoria Valley river to Maimaru, across from Awanui Bridge west to Te Oneroa a Tohe (the Ninety Mile Beach) at Hukatere, then down to Mitimiti and Hokianga.

The Runanga meets every month on the third Wednesday at Toka Tumoana, Kaitaia. It elects an Executive that oversees the day-to-day operations of the Runanga. The Executive meets in between monthly Runanga meetings to govern the operations of the Runanga working alongside the Executive Officer. It reports back to the Runanga each month and prioritises issues to bring to each meeting. The Runanga offices are based in Kaitaia and it employs more than 50 staff.

2. SUBMISSIONS

This submission reinforces the previous submissions submitted to the Ministry of Economic Development on the 14th November 2008 and the 24th October 2009 regarding the Northland Block Offers.

Matters in Relation to the Northland block offer

- a. Blocks 2, 3 and 4 are within the Te Rarawa area of Interest which extends from Hukatere south to Hokianga Harbour out to the 200 mile EEZ.

Request for amendments to the Northland block offer

- a. Te Rarawa recognises that these blocks are already in the tendering process. However Te Rarawa requests that any decision regarding progress upon closure of the tender process be deferred until the passing of legislation for the Te Rarawa Historical Treaty Settlement.
- b. That the 6 nautical mile limit be extended to the 12 nautical mile limit as this may potentially impact on the Te Rarawa Fisheries Area Management (Statutory Acknowledgement) contained within the Te Rarawa Deed of Settlement.
- c. That any decision associated off shore from Te Oneroa a Tohe (90 Mile Beach) be deferred until the passing of legislation for the Te Rarawa Historical Treaty Settlement which contains shared redress mechanisms (Te Oneroa a Tohe Beach Management Board) for the Iwi of Te Hiku

Matters in Relation to the Reinga block offer

- a. Blocks 7 and 10 are within the Te Rarawa area of Interest which extends from Hukatere south to Hokianga Harbour out to the 200 mile EEZ.

Request for amendments

- a. Te Rarawa recognises that these blocks are already in the tendering process. However Te Rarawa requests that any decision regarding progress upon closure of the tender process be deferred until the passing of legislation for the Te Rarawa Historical Treaty Settlement.

Response from the Ministry of Economic Development²

That paragraph 2 of the letter dated 4th August 2011 from Rob Robson on behalf of the Minister of Economic Development be given effect; as the Te Rarawa Historical Treaty Settlement has yet to be legislated through Parliament to complete this process of importance to Te Rarawa and Te Hiku Iwi.

Te Hiku Iwi Development Trust

The objects and purposes of the Trust are to receive, hold, manage and administer the Trust Assets on trust for the exclusive benefit of the Beneficiaries irrespective of where those beneficiaries reside and shall without limitation include:

- a. The promotion amongst the participating Te Hiku o Te Ika Iwi of the educational, spiritual, economic and cultural advancement or well being of the Participating Te Hiku O Te Ika Iwi including through participation in the Te Hiku O Te Ika –Crown Social Development and wellbeing accord;
- b. The promotion of the health of the environment in the participating Te Hiku O Te Ika Iwi rohe including revitalization of Te Oneroa a Tohe and other places of special significance to the participating Te Hiku O Te Ika Iwi; and
- c. The facilitation of collaborative working relationships between Te Hiku O Te Ika Iwi for the benefit of the Members of the Participating Te Hiku O Te Ika Iwi and/ or their environment including assisting and participating Te Hiku O Te Ika Iwi to participate in Te Hiku O Te Ika Iwi-Crown Relationship Redress and to support multi Iwi engagement with the Crown and/ or any other third parties.

It is imperative to Te Rarawa and Te Hiku O Te Ika Iwi that these objects and purposes are taken into account and given effect to regarding the proposed Block Offers 2013.

² Attached as Appendix 1

Appendix 1

Abe.

L/004/PR001/004

4 August 2011

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Abraham Witana
Environmental Coordinator
Te Runanga o Te Rarawa
PO Box 361
Kaitaia 0441

Tena koe Abe

PROPOSED PETROLEUM BLOCK OFFER - OFFSHORE REINGA BASIN

Thank you for the submission from Te Runanga o Te Rarawa dated 24 September 2009, in respect of the government's proposed petroleum block offer, in the Reinga Basin, offshore of Northland.

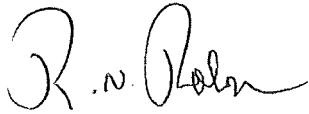
The Reinga Block Offer (and the offshore Northland Block Offer) closed on 18 August 2010. Both the Reinga and Northland Block Offers attracted interest from local and international companies but no permit awards were announced.

I confirm that the Minister gave full consideration to the matters set out in your submission, in particular that Te Runanga o Te Rarawa requested that any decision regarding blocks 7 and 10 of the offshore Reinga Block Offer proposal be deferred until completion of the Te Rarawa Historical Treaty Settlements Negotiation. The grant of a petroleum permit does not constitute the creation of an interest in the land or seabed and should not be prejudicial to the resolution of the Te Rarawa historical Treaty claims. Nonetheless, no petroleum permits have been granted with respect to the seabed of blocks 7 and 10.

Your submission also noted that it would be appropriate for the Ministry to have a Maori cultural advisor or Maori liaison person to assist the Ministry in enhancing Maori engagement. A review of the Crown Minerals Group undertaken in 2010 showed that there was a need to increase Crown capability and capacity to meet the government's objective of maximising the returns to New Zealand from the development of oil, gas and mineral resources. Staff numbers are expected to increase and I am happy to advise that the Ministry is presently seeking to fill the vacancy of Manager Iwi Relationships, a critical role to assist us engage and build relationships with iwi and other Maori groups.

Thank you for your time and contribution.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Robson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'R' being particularly large and stylized.

Rob Robson
Manager, Petroleum and Minerals Policy