

Progress Report No 2
Porirua ki Manawatū Inquiry: Ōtaki blocks alienation and
township development report

1. Introduction

Work began on this project on 4 October 2022. The project is 1040 hours in length. A draft report has been prepared and the final report is due on 25 April 2023. (These dates reflect the original filing deadlines to allow for presentation of the report at the hearing week that was scheduled for 31 July to 4 August 2023 but the report has since been rescheduled to be presented later in 2023).

This project is predominantly an alienation history of three areas: the Pukehou block, the Ōtaki township sections; and the area surrounding the Ōtaki township sections excluding the areas held by the Church Missionary Society. This is described by Walghan Partners in their block narratives and for the purposes of this report as the Ōtaki sub-district. A fourth component to the report is the development of the Ōtaki township.

The focus of the last few months of the project has been researching at Archives New Zealand, National Library and the Aotea Maori Land Court in Whanganui. I have also completed investigating the title and alienation data for the Otaki township sections and prepared a draft report.

Maps are currently being prepared and will be included in the final report.

2. Research issues and sources covered

2.1 The Pukehou block and the Ōtaki sub-district

The project brief specifies that the scope of the report will encompass three specific areas. The first two areas are the Pukehou block and the 66 blocks or 340 parent blocks that make up the Ōtaki sub-district. The Pukehou block, which is located directly north of the Ōtaki sub-district, comprises 27,013 acres and the sub-district about 3,574 acres. A map of the Ōtaki sub-district from the Walghan Partners block narratives is included in appendix one of this progress report.

I have completed an analysis of the block alienation data of the Ōtaki sub-district and the Pukehou block using the Walghan Partners block narratives. This comprised organising alienations by time period beginning with the first known purchase in 1868 of Tawaroa 1. Also included in this analysis is the number of blocks that were Europeansied (declared general land) between 1968 and 1972 under the Māori Affairs Amendment Act 1967 and those blocks taken under the Public Works Act from these areas. The latter was identified using Heather Bassett and Richard Kay's Public Works Takings spreadsheet prepared for this inquiry. I also used my Local Government report to quantify the number of blocks in these areas vested in the Ikaroa Māori Land Board in 1929 and 1931 for non-payment of rates and those blocks compulsorily vested in the Māori Trustee for sale on the application of the Ōtaki Borough Council and Horowhenua County Council for non-payment of rates in the 1960s and 1970s. *Māori Land Online* has been consulted to assess the amount of Māori land remaining in 2022.

This assessment enables, as required in the project brief, the provision of an estimate of the amount of land lost, the means by which it was lost and the time periods where it occurred.

Research has also been completed on the Crown purchases in the Pukehou block in the nineteenth century. Māori Land Purchasing Department records have been examined as well as several other reports prepared for this inquiry (Husbands and Anderson, Green and Chase).

Apart from one private purchase in 1868, private purchasing began in 1874 with respect to some of the smaller blocks in the sub-district (there was about 11 purchases between then and 1879). This was followed by a significant amount of private purchasing during the next twenty years with purchasing in the 1890s, 1900s and 1910s particularly significant. I have examined Native Land Court, Aotea District Maori Land Council and Ikaroa Maori Land Board minute books for details of their purchase confirmation process and the removal of restrictions. I have also analysed Native Office and Justice Department records where requests were made to the Governor to remove alienation restrictions from the title.

Although the number of purchases declined from the 1930s particularly during the 1940s there were still a significant number of purchases during the period from 1950 to the late 1970s. Purchases have been examined for this period, particularly Pukehou 4C4C, using alienation files from the Aotea Māori Land Court Whanganui.

2.2 Ōtaki township sections

As no block narrative of Ōtaki township sections was completed for the inquiry, I have continued to focus on locating title, partition and alienation data for each of the sections in the township. This has provided the means to identify patterns of alienation within the township including the key time periods and the process and legislation by which the alienations occurred.

As no one source contains all this data, a variety of sources have been examined. These include the Ōtaki deeds index, block order files from the Whanganui Māori Land Court, certificates of title, Crown grants and memorial schedules, Native and Māori Land Court minute books, Aotea Maori Land Council minute books, Ikaroa Maori Land Board minute books and Native Office, Māori Land Purchase Department, Justice Department, Māori Trustee and Māori Affairs Department records held at Archives New Zealand. I have also utilised alienation information I compiled for my Local Government report completed for this inquiry, and alienation data collected from the Aotea Maori Land Court in Whanganui.

This data has been organised in tables that have been included in the draft report. The data has also been used to provide an analysis of land alienation in the township sections from 1867, when title was first investigated, through to 1996 when the final purchase was confirmed in the township.

2.3 Ōtaki township development

The project brief specifies that the report will include a history of the development of Ōtaki township that focuses specifically on hapū aspirations for papakāinga at the township including at Pukekaraka. As I note in the draft report, this has proved difficult to compile as relevant sources are limited. However, I have used local histories and reports prepared for this inquiry for details of the town's establishment. Terry Hearn's socio-economic report for this inquiry has also been used to identify relevant housing issues in both Ōtaki and Pukekaraka from the 1940s and 1950s. This has been supplemented with Pukekaraka and Ōtaki township title and alienation data collected. The chapter focuses on key areas that impacted on the ability of Ngāti Raukawa to maintain the Ōtaki township and Pukekaraka as a papakainga.

3. Issues

As more time was spent on collecting title and alienation data for the Ōtaki township sections and sub-district than expected, the examination of the alienation of several blocks as requested by claimants has not been completed in time for the draft. This includes the Te Roto block which today comprises the Ōtaki Racing Track, the Rahui block and several Taumanuka partitions. These will be completed in time for inclusion into the final report.

In addition, where title information was not included in the Walghan Block narratives, some tables have incomplete alienation information. This will also be researched further and where possible, included in the final report. Some Public Works and customary land data has also not yet been included and this too will be completed for the final report.

4. Claimant hui attended

I attended an online hui with Tū Te Manawaroa on Tuesday 6 December. At the hui, the parameters of the research were discussed and specific blocks of interest identified for more detailed research. These included the alienation of the Taumanuka block and purchases within the Ōtaki township circa July 1967 when decimal currency was introduced and whether this impacted on the purchase price received by those selling sections in the township. Tū Te Manawaroa are also interested in further research concerning the alienation of land in the Rahui block to the east and in the Waitohu, Pukeatua-Waitohu and Pukekaraka blocks to the north of the township.

I attended a hui on 19 December 2022 at Woodward Law. Areas of research discussed including Pukehou 4C4C, Te Roto blocks (where the Ōtaki Race Course is located), and Taumanuka. They also asked that where possible, for hapūnames to be incorporated into the report as they relate to various lands. I undertook to do this as far as I could using the list of hapūand names from the Ōtaki Pa memorial of ownership which contains over 300 names and their corresponding hapū This has been transcribed and is located in appendix to the Anderson, Green and Chase report completed for this inquiry.

I attended a hui on 27 January 2023 with Simon Austin and counsel Peter Johnston. They were interested in further research associated with James Howard Wallace including Taumanuka, the Pahianui block and Ōtaki township sections.

I attended a hui at Ōtaki on 31 January where I met with Deanna Rudd. The focus was largely on the alienation of the sections of Ōtaki township around Raukawa Marae as well as Te Ngae block and Makuratawhiti blocks.

Where possible I have incorporated into the report examples of land alienation from blocks identified by claimants.

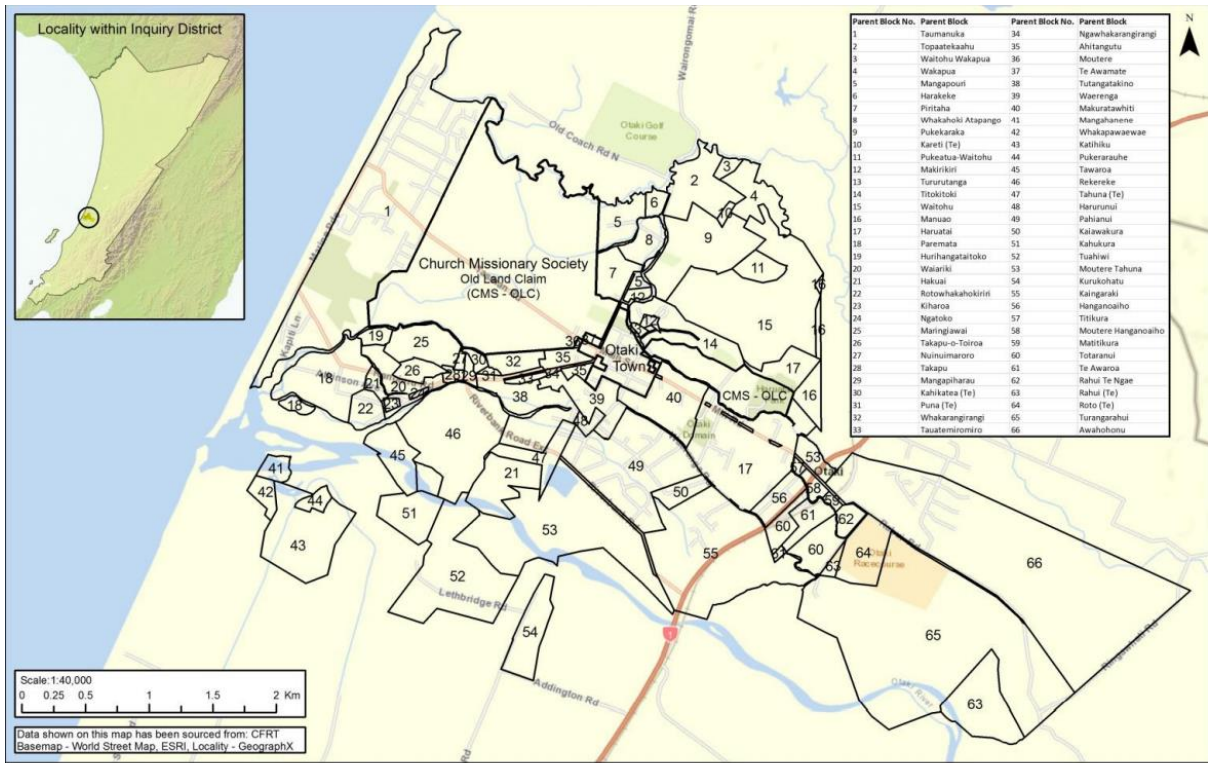
I anticipate that a hui to discuss the draft report will be held in early April. I also welcome any written feedback which can be sent via Anita Miles at the Crown Forestry Rental Trust.

Ngā mihi,

Suzanne Woodley

28 March 2023

Appendix one: Ōtaki sub-district



Porirua ki Manawatu Inquiry District: Ōtaki Sub-district
 Cartography by Geospatial Solutions Ltd. Map Number CFRT PKM - 085 Map projection: New Zealand Transverse Mercator Date: 22/08/2017

Source: Walghan Partners, Porirua ki Manawātū Inquiry District: Block Research Narratives Vol, I: Part I – Summary Analysis (Wai 2200, #A212), p. 246.