

To: mpi.forestry@mpi.govt.nz

From: Geraldine Baker, Kahukuraariki Trust

Re: Consultation on proposals for changing forestry settings on the registration in the New Zealand ETS

1 Our Trust was established to receive Treaty settlement assets in the Whangaroa/Mangonui area of Tai Tokerau. We are the legal owners of the former SOE farm commonly known as Stoney Creek near Mangonui which was restored via the Ngati Kahu ki Whangaroa Deed of Settlement.

2 We are opposed to the three options contained in your discussion document, Managing exotic afforestation incentives. Our land will be negatively affected if the status quo is not maintained. Our land is Treaty Settlement land and our rangatiratanga is being swiped aside without due process or partnership engagement.

3 Previously our Trust has engaged with Te Uru Rakau and we developed the basis for a forestry pine plantation deal. Sadly it never proceeded. Our interest however has not diminished

and we are engaged with a party who may be able to partner with us to establish a ETS compliant permanent exotic forest. Unless the ETS status quo is maintained for our Treaty whenua our prospects are very bleak.

4 The Crown characterization of the problem is not accepted by our Trust. Our approach is for ongoing forestry on our whenua that can generate ETS related putea for our owners and increase offsetting capacity for the Climate Change journey. The importance of forestry is recognized by the Climate Commission and the Crown seems to be heading in a direction which will shrink the ability of forestry to “buy time” for a just transition.

5 We are surrounded by native bush. Indeed we have the Paekauri Reserve with our rohe and realise that lots of ngahere taketake/ native forestry has been lost. It is inequitable for Maori landowners to be lumbered with the obligation to leave our land so scrub can re-emerge. It will not generate putea which matches exotic forests and we do not have the resources to keep it pest free.

6 We are already working with the Crown on pest eradication and native plantings at Kowhairoa, Whangaroa harbour. The benefits to our owners do not commercially compare with the

returns which will accrue through our whenua being put into permanent exotic forestry and registered with the ETS.

7 We totally reject the suggestion that our rangatiratanga should be put on the “back burner” as contemplated by Option 3 in your discussion document. Your notion of outlawing Maori landowners from registering their exotic forests in the permanent ETS category and then considering at a later date exemptions is offensive and undermines our Settlement and the Crown commitments to us.

8 Our Trust submits that Option 1 should be maintained. Any changes to our Whenua Maori rangatiratanga must be negotiated separately with us as your Treaty partner. It is a breach of the Treaty and inconsistent with our Settlement legislation for the Crown to summarily void the optionality rights associated with our whenua.