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Report to Trustees for Annual General Meeting, 11 December 2022

Ngāti Te Whiti Whenua Tōpu Trust

1. Below for your consideration is my report to Trustees for the purposes of the Ngāti Te Whiti Whenua Tōpu Trust (the Trust) Annual General Meeting for 11 December 2022.

Trust Review proceedings - Māori Land Court

2. I have previously reported to you in March 2022 about the Māori Land Court decision dated 10 September 2021 (437 Aotea MB 3) concerning the Trust review proceedings. Further submissions have been requested from the Court to finalise certain legal issues, and then a final decision will be issued by the Judge. Note that the judge overseeing the case is now referred to as Justice Harvey, of the High Court. There are no legal costs falling on beneficiaries through this review proceedings.

Trustee Remuneration

3. The request to the Court to approve trustee remuneration (in line with market appraisal and supported by beneficiaries at the 2019 AGM) has not yet been approved by the Court. This matter is ongoing.

Review of the Trust Order

4. A review of the Trust Order has been completed following consultation with stakeholders and beneficiaries. I remain available to assist with a wānanga with beneficiaries to discuss the Trust Order and progress through to ratification. It is positive that the hapū society has progressed its own constitution review, and it is recommended that the Whenua Topu Trust and the hapū society align their wānanga/consultation dates with beneficiaries, because the issues being discussed will overlap.

Other

5. There are a number of other matters of advice that the Trustees have asked of me to progress. I am needing to secure special aid from the Court to cover the costs of this additional advice, but remain available to assist where I can. My own health difficulties through 2022 have led to some delays.

Noho ora mai koutou,

Leo Watson