



1 Sep 1995 | Justice

A Statement on the Treaty of Waitangi in Today's Perspective by NZ Catholic Bishops

During 1995 especially our country has been faced by the question of justice in the settlement of grievances resulting from past failures to implement the requirements of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi. All New Zealanders who know something of the history of the last 155 years admit that justice has not been done and that the partnership, signified by the two languages at Waitangi, has not been honoured. Confiscated or appropriated land continues to be a cause of conflict in parts of the country; tino rangatiratanga has not been recognised; frustration at the lack of progress has deepened....

<https://www.catholic.org.nz/about-us/bishops-statements/a-statement-on-the-treaty-of-waitangi-in-todays-perspective/>

Dear Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers

31 July 2019

On behalf of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland, we urge the Government to take steps in rectifying the grave injustice it committed in 1863 when it confiscated the land at Ihumātao. Now, a just and restorative solution would be for the government to buy back the disputed SHA62 land at Ihumātao, and then consult with the mana whenua to reach a long term solution for the use of their land. (This has been suggested by Simon Wilson in last week's NZ Herald.)

At this point, we advocate that all construction on the disputed land to stop. The equipment brought on site by Fletcher should also be removed. Otherwise, the subdivision of the land for private sale would render impossible any future return of the land to its rightful Maori owners.

We were greatly encouraged by the announcement of the Prime Minister's decision to halt construction until an acceptable solution is found. However, it would appear more powerful if this decision were to be committed in writing. In addition, we encourage our Prime Minister to meet the activists and other local Maori on site at Ihumātao as soon as possible.

We strongly support the government's decision to invite all parties involved in this land dispute to come together to find a solution. The participants must include the leaders of the land occupation, Save Our Unique Landscape (SOUL).

To promote peace and goodwill, the government should withdraw the police presence, as requested by the Maori Council. If there is need for some peacekeeping presence, then Maori wardens would be much the more appropriate keepers.

Thank you for your attention.

Ka Sing Yeung, Chair

Rangi Davis, Member: Bi-cultural Committee

Chris Sullivan (Deacon), Leader: Ihumātao Response Team