

News



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Peters calls on Parliament to make amends

Geoff Mercer
 Maori affairs reporter

NEW Zealand First leader Winston Peters says Parliament must make amends following a High Court decision that a Maori Land Court judge prevented two iwi from being heard by the tribunal when that judge did not have the jurisdiction to do so.

At the second reading of the Te Urewera-Tuhoe Bill, Mr Peters pointed out boundary issues were being improperly dealt with in the bill and New Zealand First voted against it.

Last week, following the High Court decision, Mr Peters said members of the National Party, including Minister for Treaty Negotiations Christopher Finlayson and Maori Affairs select committee chairman Tau Henare, "scoffed" at his suggestion then.

"They both should now publicly apologise for their wanton ignorance," Mr Peters said.

"Now, much to their embarrassment, the High Court has agreed with the position New Zealand First took.

"Before the Te Urewera-Tuhoe Bill is passed, Parliament has the opportunity, and a duty, to address the concerns of Te Upokorehe and Ngati Ruapani," Mr Peters said.

Mr Finlayson has reacted by saying while he agreed with the court's jurisdictional error finding, the Waitangi Tribunal was correct when it found no



PROTEST: Members of Te Upokorehe protest the Te Urewera-Tuhoe Bill in Ohope in May. File photo

"substantive unfairness caused by the Crown's settlement with Ngai Tuhoe".

Te Upokorehe occupies the space between Tuhoe and Whakatohea and is based at Kutarere. Ngati Ruapani's interests lie in the vicinity of Lake Waikaremoana.

Mr Peters said New Zealand First had consistently said the Government must not attempt to correct a long-standing wrong by creating another wrong.

"We recognise Tuhoe's grievance, and we have never thought otherwise, but we have also expressed concern that legitimate iwi, recognised by respected parliamentarian Sir Apirana Ngata, have had their claims sidelined," he said.

Te Upokorehe and Ngati Ruapani sought urgent hearings with the Waitangi Tribunal during Tuhoe's Treaty settlement negotiations on the impact of the settlement but these

were declined. The settlement has moved on toward its conclusion but being before Parliament the tribunal is no longer able to address its content.

Nevertheless, Te Upokorehe spokesman Wallace Aramoana said, on the basis of the High Court decision, the iwi would file another urgent claim to address its boundary concerns with Tuhoe.

One in four disabled

ALMOST one in four New Zealanders were identified as disabled in 2013, according to the New Zealand Disability Survey released this week by Statistics New Zealand. This was up from 20 per cent in 2001.

A total of 1.1 million people were identified as disabled.

"The New Zealand population is ageing, with the proportion of the population aged over 65 years growing, and this group has a higher likelihood of being disabled than younger adults or children," labour market and household statistics manager Diane Ramsay said.

The survey was carried out last year, with 23,000 disabled and non-disabled children and adults, plus 1000 adults living in residential care facilities, interviewed across the country.

The most common impairment type for adults was a physical limitation, which affected more women than men.

For children, the most common impairment type was difficulty with learning.

Disability rates varied across the country, with the Auckland region reporting a lower-than-average rate (19 per cent).

Four regions – Taranaki, Northland, Bay of Plenty, and Manawatu-Wanganui – had higher-than-average disability rates.

Lost property to be claimed at police station

WHAKATANE police has the following items at their lost property:

- Purple scooter
- Black longboard skateboard – both located at Whakatane Intermediate School
- Blue Raleigh BMX bike found in

King Street

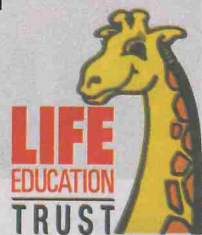
- Blue cloth purse with cash in it found in Victoria Avenue area
- Black and blue BMX bike found in Churchill Street
- Black pouch with cash in it found in Kakahoroa Drive area

■ 18L petrol container with a name written on top and side.

If any of this property belongs to you, please call at the Whakatane police station during normal office hours with identification to claim your item.



The principal cost within the Community Trust is the educator who is a qualified professional teacher.



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