

Our Ref DOIA 24-269

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Response to your official information request

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act received on 4 April 2024 for information regarding the iwi-Crown working group that has been established to explore the future governance and administrative arrangements for the proposed reserve at Watts Peninsula. Please find our responses to your questions below.

Context

Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) is leading a programme of work to establish a reserve at the northern end of Te Motu Kairangi / Miramar Peninsula, also known as Watts Peninsula – a culturally and historically significant area located near the entrance to Wellington Harbour.

LINZ is also leading the disposal process for the former Wellington Prison site at Mount Crawford on behalf of the Department of Corrections, which is adjacent land to Watts Peninsula.

1. When was this working group formed and what is its name?

A working group comprising representatives from LINZ, the Department of Conservation (DOC), Te Arawhiti and Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust¹ (PNBST) was first established in February 2020. The purpose of the working group was to establish strong working relationships to support the implementation of the 2017 Cabinet mandate.

In May 2023, Ministers for Land Information, Māori-Crown Relations and Conservation instructed their agencies to work with PNBST to explore alternative governance arrangements for the proposed reserve at Watts Peninsula that would align with Taranaki Whānui's aspirations for the site.

¹ PNBST represents Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika a Maui who are mana whenua.

LINZ refers to the group as the Motu Kairangi/Watts Peninsula Working Group.

There has not been an iwi-Crown working group established with regards to the disposal of the former Wellington Prison site at Mount Crawford and this is outside the scope of the Motu Kairangi/Watts Peninsula Working Group.

2. What is the composition of the working group: i.e. what organisations are represented and which individuals are attending the working group?

The individuals attending the Working Group have changed over time but the organisations represented have stayed constant (as listed above). Since its establishment, the Working Group has been chaired by a senior leader from LINZ and the current chair is Kathy Mansell, Kaihautū/Deputy Secretary, Māori Crown Relations.

3. Which land precisely is covered by the working group (please provide a map) and how many hectares in total are under consideration?

The area the Working Group is exploring enduring governance and administrative arrangements for is the former New Zealand Defence Force site located at the northern end of Miramar Peninsula in Wellington known as Watts Peninsula (approximately 76-hectares in size). This area is shown in dark green with a red border on the map attached as **Appendix 1**

4. Whose initiative was the working group? Iwi (which groups) or crown? If iwi, which iwi organisations?

The Working Group was established as a result of discussions between Ministers, Crown agencies and PNBST.

5. Is the working group considering a housing development and, if so, approximately how many houses and what area of land are being considered?

The Working Group is exploring enduring governance arrangements for Watts Peninsula as a reserve; it is not considering any housing developments within this area. The Working Group is not involved in the disposal process for the former Wellington Prison site at Mount Crawford.

6. Will local people with an interest in the future of Mt Crawford-Matai Moana be informed of and involved in the plans before options are put to ministers? If so, when and in what way?

An update on the Watts Peninsula reserve area will be provided to the public once the Minister has considered advice from LINZ and made further decisions regarding how the reserve will be administered following transfer to DOC.

With regards to the former Wellington Prison site at Mount Crawford, this area was deemed surplus to requirements by the Department of Corrections and transferred to LINZ for disposal; which LINZ is progressing. You can read more about the disposals process on the [LINZ website](#)².

7. Please provide relevant documents covering the questions above.

The following information available on the [LINZ website](#) may be of interest to you:

Date	Document	Content	Link
2016	Cabinet minute of decision	Crown-owned land at Watts Peninsula and Mount Crawford	https://www.linz.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2016cabpaper - 2016 - egi-16-min-0327 - crown-owned land at watts peninsula and mount crawford minute and cab paper - redacted.pdf
2017	Cabinet paper	Watts Peninsula Historic and Recreation Reserve	https://www.linz.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2017cabpaper - 2017 - egi-17-min-0144 - watts peninsula historic and recreation reserve cabinet paper - redacted.pdf
13/11/2023	Official Information Act request	Response regarding land at Mount Crawford	https://www.linz.govt.nz/resources/oia-release/response-questions-regarding-land-mount-crawford

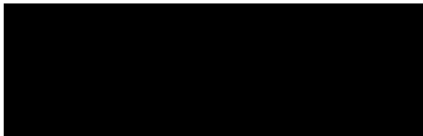
On that [same webpage](#) are a number of assessments relevant to the land at Watts Peninsula (such as structural, geotechnical and cultural safety assessments).

If you wish to discuss this decision with us or would like to request additional information regarding Watts Peninsula and/or Mount Crawford, please contact ministerialsupport@linz.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note, this response letter outlining our decision on your request **with your personal details withheld**, will be published on the Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand website. This is likely to be published by 3 June 2024.

Nāku noa, nā


Kathy Mansell
Kaihautū / Deputy Secretary, Māori Crown Relations

² <https://www.linz.govt.nz/guidance/crown-property/crown-property-disposals>

Appendix 1: Map showing land currently known as Watts Peninsula in dark green with red border

