

# Pacific Schooners breach?

Financial Secretary, Richard Neves, was the guest speaker on Te Kave Kōrero on Wednesday 26th August 2015.

Pacific Schooners Ltd and the Tiare Tāporo were the subjects of discussion.

According to recent reports the Tiare Tāporo is still moored in Panama City and that the engineer had walked off the job and had gone back to Canada.

Asked whether the reports were true Neves neither confirmed or denied it.

"I don't know anything about that. All I know is it'll be here on the 15th of September", said Neves.

"The reasons for the delay is a part, that's this turbo that goes into the engine. I've been told that's now been sourced and purchased and that it's making its way from Germany down to Panama where the boat is currently moored so it's gone through the canal, not a issue there, it's just sitting on the western side of Panama as opposed to the eastern side of the Panama canal".

Now that all the northern group Maeva Nui teams are back home on their islands it is clear now that the Tiare Tāporo would be unable to fulfill one of its obligations under the contract entered into with Government.

"Yeah it's disappointing isn't it? It's unlikely that the Tiare Tāporo would be able to do much except possibly shift a little bit of cargo amongst some of the group", said Neves.

"I think the Manihikians might have gone today and the Tahiti Nui, so they've gone back, we don't have any more people to take to the northern group, that's all been done, but we've got a significant amount of cargo that's sitting there that still needs to make its way out to the outer islands".

Neves said that when the Tiare Tāporo arrives in Rarotonga it would be utilized to transport excess cargoes left behind by the

northern group Maeva Nui teams.

He said that the contract between Government and the Tiare Tāporo would have to be varied in light of the left over cargoes.

"Yeah it would be, it would have to be a variation to the contract, I mean the contract is quite, when we first initially met and we asked all the provider to do, the only provider that could provide services to the northern group was Pacific Schooners", said Neves.

Te Kave Kōrero presenter, Tony Hakaoro, put it to Neves that Government should demand a refund of the deposit paid to Pacific Schooners Ltd for reason that its vessel the Tiare Tāporo did not arrive to transport the northern group Te Maeva Nui teams.

"That's right and there's no reason why we wouldn't be pursuing that course. But on the other hand we do have issues around cargo that does need to be shifted out, we have excess cargo to what people estimated we were going to have to send out and this stuff has to go out so one of the three domestic providers or a mix of the three domestic providers to get this stuff out to the different island that they need to go to", said Neves.

When asked whether he had demanded a refund of the deposit paid to Pacific Schooners Ltd, Neves's reply was hardly surprising.

"No I haven't made a demand because the contract is there and the itinerary is there up until the 30th of September, so when, I'll probably let you know that I have written to Pacific Schooners to remind them of their obligations and that's probably where I'll leave that so the directors of Pacific Schooners are quite clear on what their obligations are under the contract. The directors of Pacific Schooners are well aware of the demands that we've made on them and I'm hopeful that the directors of Pacific Schooners are working hard

towards getting the boat here, may be providing some services if it's required and essentially we'll be on a square ledger", said Neves.

And when questioned on whether the Tiare Tāporo had obtained a service licence to carry passengers in the Cook Islands Neves was open about it.

"No they haven't got that yet, they have to physically be here but I'm told that process doesn't take too long to do, it can be done quite quickly and you know they've got the licences from other nations so I can't imagine that would be a prolonged process but again that points to, if they get here in the 15th and inspections have to be done, that obviously, it constrains the time period that they have to deliver anything", said Neves.

Te Kave Kōrero presenter, Tony Hakaoro, said that the Government is playing up again and shaping the circumstances to suit Mike Henry and his company Pacific Schooners Ltd.

"By not turning up on time is a breach of the contract already. By having a broken down engine and not remedying the problem in time is another breach of the contract. And to say that the contract will be varied so that the Tiare Tāporo can transport the left over cargoes to the northern group is a joke. It's basically accommodating Mike Henry and ensuring that Pacific Schooners Ltd can still carry on business even after breaching the contract", said Hakaoro.

"The contract should be terminated now and a demand be made to have the taxpayers' money refunded in full forthwith", Hakaoro said.

Te Kave Kōrero believes that the Tiare Tāporo will not arrive in the Cook Islands until after the 30th of September 2015 and should that happen Pacific Schooners Ltd would clearly be in breach of the contract.

# Pension tax, Top up issues, Compensation

Pensioners' tax obligations, phone top-up issues and compensation payments to land owners in Manihiki, were the subjects of discussions on Te Kave Kōrero on Friday 28th August 2015.

Interviewed on the programme was Treasurer, Andrew Haigh and his tax officer, Teariki Pera, both from the Ministry of Financial and Economic Management (MFEM), Ngātama Aniterea, Manager at Bluesky, and Manihiki land owner Tēmu Okota'i.

Haigh said the tax office has been working with pensioners with regards to their tax obligations.

"Whilst we've been trying to work with these New Zealand superannuitants for two and a half years now, maybe longer, to try to get them to comply with their Cook Islands tax obligations and pay their share over here, we're now getting towards the end of the road with a small number of recipients over here", said Haigh.

"We are talking about, around about 70 at this point, might be slightly less because the numbers are dropping daily as we go out and explain things to them on one-to-one basis, we've had some success in recent times with people wanting to comply but there are a small number and probably around 60 to 70 that would be non complying".

Haigh added there are around 250 persons living in the Cook Islands collecting the New Zealand pension.

"Obviously our wish is to work with New Zealand superannuitants to get them to pay their tax voluntarily. Obviously we've gone to great lengths to get that to happen to date and the majority are now complying which is good to see but there is a small handful of superannuitants at the end of this that aren't still complying. We can look at other options that may well be a statement of claim at the Court but I think we're a long way from that yet".

Haigh said the tax office may consider a number of options in terms of pensioners' compliance with their tax obligations.

"The most correct practical option really is to get voluntary compliance, yes, if that's not gonna come, yes, the bank account options is next best. When they get paid their New Zealand super then we take what we consider the tax equivalent and obviously they're free to spend the remainder throughout the next four weeks".

Tax enforcement officer, Teariki Pera, said that they have visited pensioners and gave them the options.

"We've actually given them an opportunity so on the spot we've actually advised them, so do you want to comply with the thing? After what we've explained to them and if they continue to resist, we've actually just gone into the fact that if we couldn't recover tax from them, we'll actually go to their banks or the last resource is to actually go through seizing assets through the Court".

According to Haigh the tax office has been more than reasonable towards pensioners having given them advanced notices and options of complying with their tax obligations.

In relation to interviewing Bluesky Manager, Ngātama Aniterea, in relation to a top-up issue on Friday 28th August concerning the local telecommunications company, Ngātama apologized and said in Māori that the issue was New Zealand based".

"Meitaki e Tony, tika rāi, ā, te mea mua, te tātarā'ara nei au, nā roto i te aronga 'anga'anga 'ē te company Bluesky, no tēia, mānga tā'ī i tēia pōpongi. Mataora rā 'oki au i te 'akakite atu ē, i tēia a'ia'i, i tēia afternoon nei, kua rauka tēia maki i te 'akatanotano".

"I tēia pōpongi, kua kitena'ia mai ē, tēia promotion na mātou, top-up koe i tā'au phone, ko tā'au moni 'ua i tūtaki, ko te rēira te ka 'aere mai ki roto i tā'au account eā, tā'au phone, māri rā, ko te bonus ta mātou i promise e ka oake mātou ki te tangata, kāre te rēira i tae vave mai ana, e mānga manamanatā ta'i no runga i te system. Tēia system top-up bonus na mātou tei Nu Tireni te ngā'i i operate ia mai, 'e mea contract, e

mea tūtaki na mātou tēia aronga, na rātou tēia bonus top-up e 'akateretere maī na".

Ngātama said that Bluesky customers whose bonus credits were entered manually benefited further when the New Zealand system came back online and put extra top-up bonus onto their phones.

Ngātama said Bluesky would not demand a refund of the extra bonus as it was their system that inconvenienced customers in the first place.

"Inā i te pōpongi, no te mea 'oki ē kua kitea mai tēia maki, ē, kāre te bonus e 'aere ana ki runga, kua rapu mātou i rēira, tuku manual 'ua eā, tuku manual 'ua i te bonus ki runga i te account 'aere. Inā i rēira, te 'anga'anga mai te system i tēia 'ora rua neī ra, te aronga ti bonus i te pōpongi, on mai te system, bonus 'aka'ou ta rātou, ko rātou tei manuia. Kāre mātou e 'aere e 'aka'oki mai i te rēira extra bonus no te meā kua inconvenience oki rātou no tēia manamanatā, sorry atu no te rēira".

The third person interviewed, Tēmu Okota'i, a land owner in Manihiki, queried in Māori whether there is a law and order issue in Manihiki in light of the Government's compensation payments to land owners following threats made by the land owners.

"I tēia 'oki i tupu, te mea mua, mei te mea te karanga nei te Kavamani ē, ka tūtaki rātou i tēta'i au 'atu 'enua no te mea kua threatened ia te solar power o Manihiki, te mea mua, ka ui tātou ē, 'e manamanatā ainei to Manihiki no runga i te law and order kāre e rauka i te Kavamani i te pātoi, me kore, pāruru i tēia au manako mei tēia te tū, kia rauka 'ua i tēta'i aronga kia 'aere i te 'akatupu pekapeka, 'ē, mei te mea rāi i rēira ē, ko te aronga ka 'akatupu pekapeka, ā, ka 'akapē'ea te ma'ata'anga o te au 'atu 'enua? Te āru nei rātou i te 'aka'aere'anga ā te ture, i te kimikimi'anga ē, oti te au kimikimi'anga, ei rēira e tūtaki'i ai te moni o te au 'enua".

Te Kave Kōrero believes the Government was wrong paying the land owners prematurely particularly given the question as to ownership was still being determined by the Land Court.

# \$41,000 payout to 10 landowners

The solar farm compensation payment to Manihiki landowners was a contentious talkback subject on Te Kave Kōrero on Monday 31st August 2015.

In Māori, Te Kave Korero presenter, Tony Hakaoro, criticised Government's decision paying out \$41,000.00 compensation to 10 land owners.

Hakaoro said Government was wrong in making the payments as the question of compensation and determination of ownership of the lands were still pending before the Land Court.

"Tēia te tāravakē ma'ata o te Kavamani, kua tūtaki rātou i tēia moni ki tēia au 'atu 'enua, e, oti akē ra, kāre i oti ake te 'Akavā'anga 'Enua. Kāre te 'Akavā'anga 'Enua i tuku ake i tāna tika 'akatinamou ē, ko 'ai mā te au 'atu 'enua o te rēira au 'enua i 'akatū'ia te solar i Manihiki", said Hakaoro.

Hakaoro added that it was also wrong that the payment was made out of Government's Contingency Fund because "that fund is particularly set aside for emergency purposes".

A few callers rang and spoke in Māori disagreeing with Hakaoro's view.

However one listener rang and spoke entirely in English in support of Te Kave Kōrero's presenter.

"That caller spoke very well and more or less supported my bringing the issue onto Te Kave Kōrero for people to debate", said Hakaoro.

The caller's contribution to the talkback was a highlight on Te Kave Kōrero.

"Hi Tony, I just wanted to ring in just to congratulate you on today's topic on the radio, I think we need to continue holding the Government to account, and I disagree with the last caller, it is a matter of public interest that we continue to discuss these very important issues. And my question is, where is the Police in all of these? If these conducts by our Ministers are criminal, then I think they need to be brought before the Court and prosecuted and perhaps we need to throw some of these Ministers in jail because the problem here in the Cook Islands is that we just continue, continue to tolerate criminal behaviour by the very

people that we put in Government that's supposed to be looking after our interests".

"You know, the idea of not having public discourse and discussions about these issues I think is completely wrong. We need to bring these issues out into the people so more people are made informed about the corruptive behaviour of our Government".

"I don't know how we can continue to support a Prime Minister that continues, that continues, to abuse the legal system, right, continue to suspect the Court of this land and more importantly, we've got a seventy million dollar water project that's ongoing here in the Cook Islands, seventy million dollar water project and our landowners have yet to go through a compensation scheme and yet we've paid ten individuals or thereabouts, three hundred and something thousand dollars in an outer island who does not, with all respects, provide any meaningful input into the tax payments of this country".

"I do apologise if that figure is incorrect but, at the end of the day, there's a process and that process needs to be respected".

"In regards to the second issue that you raised with Minister Mark Brown, I certainly agree that all of their flights there need to be reviewed and their travel expenses and that should be obviously a matter of public record".

"It's reasonably expected that a Minister needs to spend some money while he or she is away on official government business but I think there needs to be a line in the sand to say what is a reasonable amount and what is not and I think some of their spending is excessive and that certainly needs to be curtailed down to an

acceptable level especially when I see our people here earning a minimum wage less than \$10.00 an hour and it's a bit offensive to me to see our Ministers splurging tens and tens of thousands of dollars on a single trip".

"If I can just finish off by just saying, if we had a competent Police force, they should be in there investigating these criminal behaviours and people need to hold their Ministers to account. The Government forget that if it were not for the people that voted them into position Government would not be there".

"The will of the people is stronger than Government and we need to hold our Ministers and Members of Parliament to account and I urge all Ministers, or the opposition to some of these issues to get up and represent the views and concerns of your constituency because the problem is, we are too silent, we are too scared to get up and speak up about some contentious issues but that's the very thing that make us a democracy and we need to continue to hold these people to account so I congratulate your topic on the radio station today and I'll be listening quite keenly as to the result of the ongoing discussions about these issues".

"I certainly disagree with your previous caller and I just invite anybody else who has an outside thinking in regards to trying to come up with some solution and if anybody has any information to come forward and bring it on radio and let's talk about it".

Te Kave Kōrero thanks callers for their contribution to what was a very interesting talkback discussion.  
Meitaki ma'ata ē kia manuia.



# Chooks extra

## Cook's win over Samoa

Neneva Neves tells us \$250,000 or more is designated for the landowners in Manihiki who were so kind to allow the solar installation to go on their land so they deserved a pay out after some of them threatened to vandalise the project, what a load of kangaroo crock! Let them destroy the project, who cares, they can go without electricity, bugger them, just a bunch of spoilt voters. Neneva said it would look bad to the NZ aid donors, again let them make fools of themselves and their 78 vote PM. The Rarotonga taxpayer is getting sick of the Manihiki spongers, let them wreck the airport as well, what a bunch of dummies.



How stupid can Puna be to reward his people for making criminal threats? Didn't see or hear of this policy in the Election campaign that the corrupt CIP will reward people not to commit criminal activities such as vandalising public property. Maybe the school arsonist please come forward and collect your reward not to burn any more schools or property. Puna is a joke! He promised them shopping money when they came to Rarotonga and when he was reminded and gave the excuse the Court wouldn't out he had to scurry around and steal it from the Rarotonga taxpayer's emergency money, lies, lies and more lies and cover up excuses by Neves, one idiot after another.



Good news for the intake landowners, just threaten to turn the Te Mato Vai water off and in a couple of hours the idiot person we got for a PM can get some money from the contingency funds for you, come on Teddy stop pussy footing around get your mojo back and sit up straight and let the DPM Heta hear your steel balls clanging. If Manihiki can get \$25,000 for useless sand you should be getting \$50,000 for fertile land that delivers clean drinking water, come on Teddy what happen to the fire in your belly? Have you been sucked into going soft on this corrupt CIP government?

## MICPA event a success



Current Miss Cook Islands Teuira Napa



A great save by Cook Islands Goal Keeper Tahiri Elikana



Cooks Flag Match Day



Cook's Taylor Saghabi shoots



Team mates celebrate the goal