

Is a “Just Transition” possible for Māori?

Session 2: Managing Impacts through Just Transitions

New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment

2019 Conference

Ko V



Managing Impacts in NZ - What does this look like?

Resource Management System

A web of systems (just a sample of)

- Resource Management Act 1991 – Primary legislation in NZ
- Local Government Act 2002
 - Localised decision-making
- Conservation Act 1987
 - Preservation and conservation of NZ's natural and historical resources
- Crown Minerals Act 1991
- Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf Act 2012
 - Manage activities in the EEZ
- Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011
 - Manage interests in NZ's marine and coastal area
- Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019
 - Emissions reduction and other responses to the effects of climate change

Managing Impacts – Who is involved?

Expertise in NZ's Resource Management

Government (incl Agencies)

- National Strategy and Policy
- National Monitoring and Reporting

Local Authorities

- Regional and Local Policy and Planning
- Assessor and Compliance
- Decision-Making

Consultants/Profession

- Technical Expertise
 - Policy
 - Planning/Resource Consents
 - Impact Assessments
 - Commissioners
 - Law/Advocates (Lawyers)

Iwi/Hapū and Māori Organisations

- Technical Experts in Te Ao Māori
- Partners and/or stakeholders in policy and planning

Managing Impacts – Who is involved?

Expertise in NZ's Resource Management



Just Transition – What is it looking like at the moment?

What is a “Just Transition”?

- Associated with the pathway towards a low emissions economy
 - Linked to the Government’s Economic Strategy
 - National policy to facilitate a market response to climate change (eg effective ETS, high-quality regulations, effective standards)
 - Will require significant change in what NZ produces and how NZs produces it
 - Implementation in Taranaki
- Importance of obtaining quality information
- About leveraging off opportunities in an equitable and inclusive way

A Snapshot: Iwi/Māori Contemporary Context



Impacts on Māori from a Low Emissions Economy

Potential Impacts (and Opportunities)

- Land Use Change
 - Shift from agriculture and sheep and beef
 - Forestry - Timber Harvesting
 - Māori land – Marginal/Unproductive land
- Increase in renewables
 - Hydro-generation – preferential access to freshwater
 - Location of wind turbines (and its infrastructure)
 - Geothermal generation
- Electrification
 - Accessibility to/affordability of electrical vehicles (and its infrastructure)

Managing Impacts (on Māori) through Just Transitions

Resource Management Act 1991
and
The role of Impact Assessments

Managing Impacts on Māori through Just Transitions

RMA Definition of Environment and Effects

Environment includes—

- (a) ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and
- (b) all natural and physical resources; and
- (c) amenity values; and
- (d) the social, economic, aesthetic, and **cultural** conditions which affect the matters stated in paragraphs (a) to (c) or which are affected by those matters

Meaning of effect

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the term **effect** includes—

- (a) any positive or adverse effect; and
- (b) any temporary or permanent effect; and
- (c) any past, present, or future effect; and
- (d) any cumulative effect which arises over time or in combination with other effects—
regardless of the scale, intensity, duration, or frequency of the effect, and also includes—
- (e) any potential effect of high probability; and
- (f) any potential effect of low probability which has a high potential impact.

Managing Impacts to Māori through Just Transitions

The Role of Impact Assessments

Importance of obtaining quality information

- Policy
 - Statutory processes and requirements for policy development
 - Public consultation
 - Mana Whakahono a Rohe – Iwi Partnership
- Project specific
 - Te Ao Māori context – Cultural and environmental context
 - Understand consequences of proposed actions on Māori and their values (includes dealing with uncertainty)
 - Engagement with Māori
 - Evidence based
 - Informed decision-making

Is a “Just Transition” possible for Māori?

