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PRIME MINISTER

27 May 1991

Mr Kenn J Landaus
Managing Director
Nephrite Jade Ltd
PO Box 43
HAAST 7950

Dear Mr Landaus

Thank you for your letter on 2 April 1991 regarding the Waitangi Tribunal and the Ngai Tahu claim.

The present Government's policy on outstanding Maori grievances accepts that genuine grievances as a result of past government actions have occurred and should be redressed in a reasonable and practical fashion.

The Ngai Tahu report is a long and complex one. There is a great deal of information for the Government to digest before any decisions will be made. The Tribunal may express a view on how the Treaty should be applied, but that in itself is not binding. Some of the earlier recommendations of the Tribunal have been accepted by the Government, while others have not been acted on.

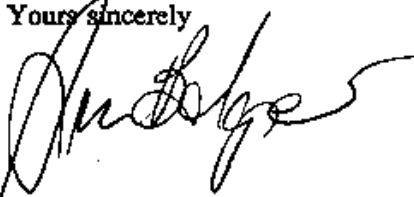
The Tribunal has a policy of taking into account the views of parties who may be affected by any decision of the Tribunal. **Anyone who is affected has the right to be heard by the Tribunal** at the time the claim is being heard, and I know that the Tribunal considered a wide range of opinions before preparing its report.

In this case, the Tribunal has made five recommendations in relation to greenstone. The rights of private parties, including those with existing mining or other licences and the owners of privately owned land, are expressly protected by the recommendations to ensure that their rights are not adversely affected.

The Crown has stated its commitment to the resolution of major Treaty grievances by the end of this century. It would be wrong to simply ignore problems which have occurred in the past and it is our policy to try to resolve them once and for all.

I do appreciate you taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J B Bolger', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon J B Bolger
Prime Minister

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