



Thursday, 4 October 2007

Bioprospecting Review
Ministry of Economic Development
PO Box 1473
WELLINGTON

Te Kaunihera o Tai Tokerau Ki Te Raki

Frontier of opportunity

Tena koe

RE: Bioprospecting: Harnessing Benefits for New Zealand – A Policy Framework

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the recently released discussion document on developing a policy framework for bioprospecting.

This is an issue that requires clear direction from central government, and which could have wide implications for our communities including economic opportunities, protection of indigenous knowledge, the WAI 262 claim, and the end use of information and knowledge gained from bioprospecting.

The Far North District Council understands that at this early stage in developing the policy, implementation of the framework has yet to be decided. With this in mind, Council is making a submission on the following matters:

- The need for central government to engage with local government on this issue, especially in relation to potential effects on communities and the implementation of the framework;
- That central government ensures local government is made well aware of any potential implications of the policy framework (including in relation to the WAI 262 claim, and any social, cultural, economic and environmental implications); and
- While the document identifies local government access providers as being beyond the scope of the policy framework, it is unclear if central government implementation mechanisms will impact on the role of local government. If local government is to have a part in implementing the framework, support from central government will be required to ensure the framework is effectively implemented.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on our freephone number 0800 920 029 or on 09 4052750 (if using a cellphone).

Noho ora mai,

Lou-Ann Ballantyne
ACTING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER

