

**14 April 2010**

**Hone Harawira**

**Maori Party MP for Te Tai Tokerau**

**Media Release**

**Harawira backs Ngati Whatua over Crest Energy tidal project**

Hone Harawira is irate that power companies, partly owned by foreigners, can get rights to the foreshore and seabed without having to jump over the same hurdles as tangata whenua.

“Why the heck should someone in the United Kingdom and Singapore get the right to plough the foreshore and seabed here in Aotearoa before the issues of tangata whenua over that foreshore and seabed are sorted,” Mr Harawira said.

“It seems there's one standard for how foreigners and Pakeha directors are treated and another for iwi and hapū who never relented their rights to the foreshore and seabed.

“We're not going to take much more of this – the Government needs to wake up and hop on the right waka.”

Mr Harawira's comments follow a call from one of the hapū in his electorate, Te Uri o Hau of Ngati Whatua, who have asked the Attorney-General to place a moratorium on Crest Energy's planned \$600 million tidal flow electricity project in the Kaipara Harbour.

“The Attorney-General appears to be a reasonable man and I'll be talking with the Maori Party leadership to urge him and his Government to put the moratorium in place.

“Giving Crest Energy the green light would be equivalent to giving it ownership rights in the foreshore and seabed,” Mr Harawira said.

“The Government needs to sort out the foreshore and seabed issue with Ngati Whatua before any projects like this happen in the Kaipara.

“Ngati Whatua and Te Uri o Hau are my constituents and I will fight right to the end for them.”

**Ends**