

Have your say on a United Kingdom-New Zealand trade deal

Reference: Comments from Mana whenua, Patuharakeke o Te Parawhau, Takahiwai.

2 December 2018.

What New Zealand should prioritise in a future FTA with the UK

Gorse [*Ulex europaeus*] was introduced to the landscape of Aotearoa in the early stages of UK colonisation of New Zealand. In the temperate climate gorse spread rapidly. The settlers from the UK failed to recognise the threat and continued deliberately to import the weed into the 1900s. Gorse, like tobacco and blackberry weeds, kikuyu and pampas grass, flame and wattyl trees, is a major invasive plant species with millions of dollars spent by manufacturers on controlling the weed. Weeds are a monstrous issue when trying to re-establish native forest; for example. The point being made is that the old ways of seeing and thinking means decline in the Indigenous landscape is inevitable. A priority, therefore, should be border security in a future Free Trade Agreement with the UK.

There is no good Us (Maori) and evil (them) the British—we are all trying desperately to appear normal and functional while wrestling with interwoven interests and unusual preoccupations with colonisation and agreeing to trade with each other. For these reasons, many Maori people don't find a Free Trade Agreement with the UK reassuring. For many of us, trade with the UK had a beginning in colonisation by the British, a middle that was destroyed by the British, and an end in impoverishment, landlessness, homelessness, poor health, poor education, and despair. In theory, a trade agreement between Maori and the UK should involve teaching all of us how to maximise profits by following principles of tikanga, morality and justice.

Consequently applying tikanga (decent conduct) and moral philosophy to commercial governance might make a good habit of weaving narratives of histories and cultures to demonstrate a correlation between economic health and diverse management of citizens in a future FTA. Also, pairing Maori corporate clients with UK financial clients, essentially endorsing private, for-profit entities to investors who support tikanga Maori and commercial social responsibility should be a priority in a future FTA. Decent conduct and social responsibility are on the cutting edge of developing a FTA, making

sure that Maori has access to the UK and vice versa. The technology is worth noting; pairing worthwhile Maori firms, that don't pollute the planet to create jobs or use slave labour to bring the internet to Maori developers and communities, with major UK financial backers, needless to say is the game changer of a future FTA. The UK is Maori people's oldest coloniser, and a free trade agreement makes good sense.

(Dr) Mere Kepa, Takahiwai.

A small, rectangular image containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Mere Kepa'.