

WARC – Waikato Anti Racism Coalition Constitutional change discussion April 2013

Our core values:

- A. That Te Tiriti o Waitangi is central to our constitution. Note; Te Tiriti upholds all of the outcomes and arrangements we put forward in this submission.

The outcomes we want from the constitutional arrangements:

1. Iwi/hapu systems (legal, health, education) and cultural practices are intact & not subordinate to others & are free to operate & are resourced.
 - Maori ways of being are provided for
 - Maori retain their status as the indigenous people of this land
2. That NZ is fully bilingual – in schools, on streets, in public institutions
3. That Maori are visible in all high positions

Constitutional arrangements that could achieve our desired outcomes:

1. Maori processes are recognised as a legitimate function of the constitution ie the arrangements support hapu authority, Maori ways of being, democratic processes & religious and cultural diversity
2. All local bodies operate in accordance with tikanga Maori.
3. Natural resources are managed through shared governance & agreed common values between tangata whenua and Tauwiwi.
4. Maori authority in government is determined by Maori.
5. Law making moderated by a process of tikanga Maori, Maori authority

Our core values:

- B. Environments that are biologically and ecologically rich and diverse, have plentiful indigenous vegetation/birds/insects

The outcomes we want from the constitutional arrangements:

- 1. Local economies that produce much of their own food ie low food miles and less fossil fuel travel to supermarkets.
- 2. Households grow fruit, vegies, eggs etc. Community gardens thrive – ie public shared gardens in neighbourhoods.
- 3. Programmes like Enviro-Schools – promote and educate about sustainable building and environmentally holistic living.
- 4. Recognition that all species have a right to life to maintain an ecological balance.

Constitutional arrangements that could achieve our desired outcomes:

- 1. Wholesale and retail pricing /costs are regulated in order to cover the cost of recycling or disposing of products at the end of their life and to make a contribution toward meeting public health costs.
- 2. Balancing of / regulating for balance between big and small, local and global interests.

Our core values:

- C. Our society is equitable, fair and just for all people, with freedom from discrimination for all people.

The outcomes we want from the constitutional arrangements:

1. That all people have access to housing, education, health and wellbeing to live a full life.
2. Communities/neighbourhoods have control over whether some businesses are permitted to set up in their area.
3. Our society promotes the best food to live good lives.
4. Resources – (economic – land - fisheries) are shared out more fairly and recognise tensions between commercial interests and development and local people and their interests.
5. Our diverse population is recognised and represented.
6. We see change from a society/world that knows the price of everything and the value of nothing – to one that knows and appreciates the value of everything and is not only driven by price or dollar value.
7. Freedom for all cultures to practice their own values and beliefs. All cultural practices are sufficiently resourced (ie the silent majority doesn't dominate).
8. There is full resourcing to provide the basic right to education for all (education in the wholistic sense).
9. To be able to speak freely and not be discriminated against during legal process.
10. Specific behaviours are not outlawed, ensuring freedom or individuals and groups to practice their own moral codes.

Constitutional arrangements that could achieve our desired outcomes:

1. Make Bill of Rights a supreme law and align it with international instruments.
2. Fast food outlets are licensed and strictly limited.
3. Strong public health policy to prevent or regulate advertising of unhealthy food e.g. fat, sugar, drugs and alcohol.
4. More say about access to and distribution of resources at a local level.
5. Make Bill of Rights a supreme law and align it with international instruments.
6. Laws provide consequences for behaviours that impinge on the rights of individuals and groups.

Our core values:

D. Community and participatory democracy

The outcomes we want from the constitutional arrangements:

1. A system that allows for challenge and transparency.
2. Law making is moderated and challenged.
3. Funding of community resources should fall on:
 - Resource usage – those using resources most fund more
 - Taxing of “bad” / negatives e.g. smoking, alcohol, takeaways – fatty foods etc rather than income tax

Constitutional arrangements that could achieve our desired outcomes:

1. Policy and law making moderated:
 - By local communities – power of veto to determine local needs, detail, policy – and by a requirement to check with higher authorities and local authorities before being implemented.
 - By a constitution – e.g. Governor General
 - By the ‘seven generations from now’ test
 - By applying the triple bottom line rule
 - Environmental responsibility
 - Social responsibility
 - Financial responsibility
2. Clear statements about what public goods/property/services remain in public ownership.
3. Provide an outline of the principles of governance and representation.
4. Electronic surveillance agreements and arrangements must be transparent
5. Referenda are required on certain issues
6. Measure health of society by “happiness”, “wellbeing”, health not GDP e.g. Bhutan, Nova Scotia