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### EDITORIAL NOTE

Unless otherwise noted, all references to 'councils' and 'boards', or 'land councils' and 'land boards' relate to the 'Maori land councils' of 1900 to 1905 and 'Maori land boards' of 1906 to 1952. The land boards constituted to administer Crown lands have been referred to as 'Crown land boards'.

Government departments and other institutions are described by the titles in use at the time under discussion. Thus the Maori Land Court, the Maori Affairs Department, and the Maori Trustee are dealt with as the Native Land Court, the Native Affairs Department, and the Native Trustee up to 1947, and so forth. Where the period in question overlaps 1947 the later form has been used.

All monetary figures given are sterling, and all land figures are acres. In compiling data, acreage totals in publications have been rounded to nearest acre. Unless otherwise noted, totals given in tables are based on figures after rounding, so may vary slightly from comparable totals given in the publications themselves.

### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AJHR	<i>Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives</i>
BPP	<i>British Parliamentary Papers: Colonies New Zealand</i> (17 vols, Shannon, Irish University Press, 1968–69)
CFRT	Crown Forest Rental Trust
DNZB	<i>Dictionary of New Zealand Biography</i>
doc	document
MA-MLP	Maori Affairs–Maori Land Purchase Department
NLC	Native Land Court
no	number
NZJH	<i>New Zealand Journal of History</i>
NZPD	<i>New Zealand Parliamentary Debates</i>
pt	part
RDB	<i>Raupatu Document Bank</i> (139 vols, Wellington, Waitangi Tribunal, 1990)
s	section (of an Act)
sec	section (of this report, or of an article, book, etc)

Wai Waitangi Tribunal claim

## PREFACE

This study was commissioned by the Waitangi Tribunal with a view to filling in a rather large gap in the historical literature relating to Maori lands in the twentieth century. The Maori Land Councils and the Maori Land Boards have not been entirely neglected by scholars to date. Several monographs and academic theses have dealt with them in one way or another. Most of these studies, however, relate more to Liberal politics and land policy than the organisations themselves, and all, in my opinion, fail to explain some key features of the development of the land board system. Studies delving into the post-1911 period are in any case almost non-existent, even though a large portion of the original records appear to be available<sup>1</sup> and there is a wealth of information in the *Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives*, which had not been exploited.

I have attempted to provide a survey of the history of Maori Land Councils and the Maori Land Boards which discusses their place in Maori land administration in sufficient detail to give a clear picture of the significance of these institutions. It was essential for this purpose to include a rather lengthy discussion of the statistical material bearing upon the land councils and boards, particularly in relation to vested lands. My apologies to the innumerate, but sometimes there is no substitute for a quantitative approach. The result of these efforts is not a complete and definitive history of the Maori Land Councils and Boards, by any means. This would undoubtedly be a worthwhile exercise, but an examination of all the individual land councils and boards and their year-to-year operations would require far greater resources than I was able to bring to bear upon the problem.

This project was originally scheduled for completion in February of 1995, but illness and other personal problems have led to repeated delays. I would like to thank everyone concerned for the patience which they have displayed throughout. No doubt they are as relieved as I am that it is finally finished. I would also like to thank Professor Alan Ward for many encouraging words and much good advice, and Dr Grant Phillipson for his constructive comments on the first draft, but any errors are entirely of my own making. The views expressed and conclusions drawn in this report are also my own, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Waitangi Tribunal or any other institution.

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1. See J L Hutton's inventory of 'Archival Material Relating to the Maori Land Boards: 1900-1952', CFRT, Wellington, 1996, which was commissioned by the Crown Forestry Rental Trust to supplement this report, and is based on personal inspection of the archives of the Maori Land Court offices.

## Chapter