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MURIHIKU NATIVE RESERVES GRANT.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to empower the Governor to issue Crown Grants for certain Reserves set apart for Native Purposes within the Murihiku Block. Title.

WHEREAS by deed bearing date the seventeenth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, certain territory known as the Murihiku Block, now forming portion of the Provincial District of Otago, was ceded to the Crown by the Native owners thereof, one of the terms of the said cession being that certain lands situated at Tukurau, Omaui, Oue, Aparima, Oraka, Kawakaputaputa, and Ouetota, previously set apart for Native purposes, should be dedicated as lasting possessions for the vendors and their children for ever: And whereas these lands were specially reserved for certain Natives enumerated in a census taken in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, and their descendants, and for any others they might voluntarily admit: And whereas the titles to the said lands at Tukurau and Omaui having been investigated by the Native Land Court, Crown grants have been issued for such lands, and it is expedient to give the Governor power to issue Crown grants for the remainder thereof: Preamble.

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Murihiku Native Reserves Grants Act, 1883." Short Title.

2. The term "Murihiku Block" in this Act shall be deemed to apply to all that tract of country which lies to the south of a line drawn from the Nuggets on the East Coast of the Middle Island to the summit of the Kaihiku Range, and from thence to Milford Haven on the West Coast of the same island. Interpretation.

3. The Governor may from time to time execute Crown grants of the whole or any part of the land described in the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Schedules hereto in favour of such persons as he shall consider entitled thereto, whether as being the Natives mentioned in the census of the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, or their descendants, or as persons whom such Natives have voluntarily admitted, as in the deed of cession of the seventeenth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, provided. In every such grant there shall be inserted a restriction declaring the land comprised therein shall be held without power of alienation, except by lease for no longer period than twenty-one years. Governor may execute Crown grants of land in schedules.

4. For ascertaining the proper persons entitled to any such grant the Governor may act upon the reports of any investigations or inquiries of any kind heretofore made, or hereafter to be made, with respect to the rights and claims of any Natives claiming to be entitled to any part of the Murihiku Block; and for this purpose Governor to be guided by former investigations, or may make further investigations.

may appoint any person or persons, either in addition to or in substitution of the Native Land Court, to make such further investigations and inquiries as shall seem advisable.

Issue of grants to be gazetted.

5. Forthwith after the execution of any Crown grant under this Act a notification thereof, stating the names of the grantees, shall be published in the *Gazette* and in the *Kahiti*.

No grant to be set aside after six months.

No such grant shall be liable to be set aside on the ground only that the land included therein, or any part thereof, has been granted to any person or persons not properly entitled thereto, unless proceedings to set aside such grant are commenced within six months from the date of the aforesaid notification of the execution of such grant.

SCHEDULES.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

Schedules.

ALL that piece or parcel of land in the Land District of Southland, containing by admeasurement 519 acres, more or less, being Section 183 of Block VI., Jacob's River Hundred. Bounded towards the North-east by part of Section 6 of said block, and by a road; towards the South-east by Foveaux Strait; towards the South-west by Jacob's River Estuary; towards the North-west by the Town of Riverton and by Sections 1 and 6 of the aforesaid block.

SECOND SCHEDULE.

ALL that piece or parcel of land in the Land District of Southland, containing by admeasurement 172 acres 2 roods, more or less, being Section 181, Block XXIII., New River Hundred. Bounded towards the North by Crown lands, 2740 links; towards the East by a road reserve 100 links wide along the New River Estuary; towards the South by Crown lands, 3577 links; and towards the West by Crown lands, 5821 links.

THIRD SCHEDULE.

ALL that piece or parcel of land in the Land District of Southland, containing by admeasurement 1,318 acres, more or less, exclusive of intersecting road-line and railway reserve, and known as the Oraka Native Reserve. Bounded towards the North-east by a road-line 100 links wide, 7100 links; towards the East by a road reserve 100 links wide along Foveaux Strait, and by Foveaux Strait; towards the South and South-west by Foveaux Strait; and towards the North-west, 9298 links, by Crown land: save and excepting a road-line 1 chain wide, and a railway reserve 2 chains wide, intersecting the above area; as shown on the working plan of said block, deposited in the Survey Office, Invercargill.

FOURTH SCHEDULE.

ALL that piece or parcel of land in the Land District of Southland, containing by admeasurement 977 acres, more or less, and known as the Kawakaputaputa Native Reserve. Bounded towards the North-west by Crown lands, 10411.5 links; towards the North-east by a road-line, 290, 572.4, and 7491.5 links; and towards the South-east and South-west by Foveaux Strait.

FIFTH SCHEDULE.

ALL that piece or parcel of land in the Land District of Southland, containing by admeasurement 101 acres 3 roods 26 perches, more or less, being Section 186, Block V., Longwood Survey District, and known as the Ouetota Native Reserve. Bounded towards the North-east by Sections 16 and 17, and by a road-line, 3392 links; and towards the South-east, South, and North-west by a road reserve 100 links wide along Foveaux Strait.