

## Bulletin #91

# It's Our Future – Kiwis against the TPPA

11 October 2016



### Latest News

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is looking very shaky, with only an outside chance of getting it through during the 'lame duck' period after the US election and before the President takes office. Jane Kelsey's [blog](#) in The Daily Blog sets out the politics. In New Zealand, the government is forcing through the legislation, even though the TPPA may never happen.

But whatever happens in the short term in the US, we know that it is likely to be postponed rather than abandoned. A Clinton Presidency would be likely to revive it in some form. We need to make our own decisions, as New Zealanders, on these treaties. It is extremely unlikely that the TPPA can come into force before the New Zealand election next year, so we will have a chance to reject the TPPA at the polls without any costs for withdrawing our ratification.

And the TPPA is not the only danger. Under negotiation is the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) with China and Asian nations, which may be almost as bad as the TPPA. The secretive Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) may be even more dangerous.

All this is happening as a desperate attempt to force deals through while the neo-liberal project is falling apart. There has been a huge movement of citizens against these extreme pro-corporate agreements across Europe, in the US and in other countries.

## Rally for Democracy events

Rally for Democracy events were held in more than 12 cities and towns across Aotearoa New Zealand on 10 September. There were rallies, concerts and marches to broaden the campaign against the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA). The aim was to grow the movement through 'connecting the dots' across the issues. The common 'dots' relate to the dominance of corporate interests in policy-making. At the heart of the TPPA is rights for foreign corporations, undermining our sovereignty and the powers of government to regulate business.

The events had great music, inspiring speeches and committed activists, but unlike the massive march in Auckland on February this year, the rallies did not draw huge crowds. One of the problems is the perception that the TPPA won't be approved in the US, so we don't have to worry. That's wrong. Others think that it's over and we can't win. That's wrong too. See the blog.

<http://thedailyblog.co.nz/2016/09/24/new-green-mp-barry-coates-the-tppa-campaign-it-aint-over/>

## TPPA Actions

TPP Free Wellington are organising actions in early November in advance of the NZ Government's pressing ahead with the TPP ratification. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/658556344213166/>

*Thursday 3 November: Our Children's Future Hikoi, Welcome to Wellington Reception.*

The Hikoi of Rachel Thomas and her three tamariki, Tema, Pita and Jai to raise awareness about the pitfalls of the TPPA and Jai is scheduled to arrive in Wellington on the Bluebridge Ferry at 11:30am on 3 November. TPP Free Wellington are organising a gathering from around midday across the road on the Wellington Railway station reserve to welcome them. Details will be announced nearer the occasion and posted on the TPPA Free Wellington [facebook page](#).

<https://www.facebook.com/OurChildrensFutureHikoi/>

*Saturday 5 November: It's Our Children's Future - Hikoi Rally Action - Wellington Convergence*

TPP Free Wellington will host this opportunity to converge in the Capital to rally against the TPPA and for a positive future for all people. They are aiming for a big turnout on Saturday 5 November commencing midday at Parliament. Bring your walking boots! Details to be announced closer to the time on the event facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1126171434141278/>

## Government Trade Policy Review

In New Zealand, the Minister of Trade, Todd McClay has announced a 'Trade Policy Refresh'. It is clear from meetings in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch that it is a PR exercise rather than the fundamental change to trade and investment that is needed. The 'consultation' has been token and is likely to be a sham. But we want to take the opportunity to set out position for change. It's Our Future has prepared an [Open Letter](#) and gathered initial signatures to present at the MFAT meetings. It reflects that there is growing opposition to treaties like the TPPA in New Zealand and around the world.

## PHARMAC

New Zealand's Pharmaceutical Management Agency, PHARMAC, is consulting on changes in order to meet New Zealand's obligations under the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement. They will be holding 14 consultation forums around the country which you can enrol for [here](#). You can also make [online submissions](#) through the PHARMAC website which are due on 28 October.

<https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/news/media-2016-09-05-consulting-on-tpp-changes/>

## Media

Passionate TPPA campaigner Moana Maniapoto was honoured with the recognition she deserves as a musician and performer [https://www.facebook.com/SundayTVNZ/?hc\\_ref=NEWSFEED&fref=nf](https://www.facebook.com/SundayTVNZ/?hc_ref=NEWSFEED&fref=nf)

Lori Wallach of Public Citizen explains that the TPPA is not dead, unfortunately.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lori-wallach/tpp-is-not-dead-unfortuna\\_b\\_11802652.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lori-wallach/tpp-is-not-dead-unfortuna_b_11802652.html)

The top Democrat on trade issues in the House believes growing public hostility to free trade will not fade away after the election of a new president and a new Congress, but instead stems from the reliance on old trade and economic frameworks. <http://levin.house.gov/press-release/levin-remarks-council-foreign-relations-future-us-trade-policy>

"TPP is a sellout for workers, a handout for corporations, and a handout for China and countries that don't play by the rules. And it's clear that the public has had enough," said Senator Sherrod Brown, one of the authors of a letter to President Obama.

<https://www.brown.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/brown-casey-merkley-hirono-markey-to-administration-trans-pacific-partnership-shouldnt-be-considered-until-renegotiated->

Interviews and commentary on the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA).

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/themoney/tisa:-the-global-trade-agreement-we-know-little-about/7865774>

Leaked documents show that TiSA could undermine efforts to implement the Paris Agreement climate change. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/sep/20/global-trade-deal-threatens-paris-climate-goals-leaked-documents-show>

A new report from the Institute for Agricultural and Trade Policy details the climate costs of free trade. <http://www.iatp.org/climate-cost-of-free-trade>

The UN Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, Alfred de Zayas, has called for human rights to be mainstreamed in trade agreements.

[http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/33/40](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/33/40)

## Funding the campaign

We have launched a Give a Little page to fund the speaker tour that was held in February, the Rally for Democracy events, ongoing website and mailing costs and for future mobilisations. Please [donate generously](#).

## Signing off ...

I am convinced that we can win this campaign. The global movement against TPPA and similar treaties is growing. More than half of NZ citizens oppose the TPPA, as well as major opposition parties – Labour, Greens, NZ First and the Maori Party. Now we need to ensure that we elect a future New Zealand government that rejects the TPPA after the next election.

On a personal note, this is my last Bulletin. I am now entering Parliament as a Green MP, but still active on the TPPA and other treaties. I will be the spokesperson for the Green Party on trade and investment.

I welcome Stephen Parry as the new Coordinator for It's Our Future. Some of you may remember Stephen as the first It's Our Future Coordinator back in 2012. These days he is working as an organiser with FIRST Union and will continue to provide the great support this campaign has had from the union.

Keep up the great campaigning.

Kia kaha

Barry Coates

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