



EAST COAST RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION INC
187 Waiomatatini Road
PO Box 106
RUATORIA
Ph: (06) 864 8812
Fax: (06) 864 8813
Email: ceo@ecrfu.co.nz

3rd April 2006

The Registrar
Commerce Commission
PO Box 2351
Wellington

RE- Draft Determination J7496 ISSN NO> 0114-2720 NZ Rugby Football Union Incorporated.

The East Coast Rugby Union Executive considered the draft determination issued by the Commerce Commission and given the outcome has the ability to impact on the survival of the Union it was unanimously agreed that we articulate our position.

The Union is at a disadvantage what ever rulings are made regarding loan players and the payment of players. Admittedly we could be better off without loan players as we don't have the financial resources to attract players as many of the other Unions; therefore playing players from within our boundaries has its merits.

However the reality for the Union is that we need to have the right to use loan players in fact our view point is that, as we are a tribally/regionally based team we should have the right to use players who are of Ngati Porou descent or were born in this region.

The strength in our provincial representative side was grounded in the use of Ngati Porou players who resided outside of the Unions boundaries.

The removal of the right to remunerate players' places additional financial burdens on players' families especially with the low average wage in our region, and the cost of travel (lack of Public transport and fuel can be up to twenty cents more expensive than in Gisborne.)

We also believe the non remuneration of players undervalues players who play the same sport as the Premier Division.

It's for these reasons we support the point of view that the Union should have the right to use loan players and remunerate players.

The decision made by the NZRFU to take more time to consider these issues provides the East Coast Union time and options to assess the future direction of rugby on the East Coast.

William Burdett

Chairperson