The land that would become the Town Belt is largely covered in forest and under the rangatirotanga (authority) of resident Maori.

The New Zealand Company instructs its surveyor that ‘the town inland should be separated by a broad belt of land … to be public property on condition that no buildings be ever erected on it’.

The New Zealand Company ‘purchases’ the harbour and surrounding hills from the Maori of Pito-one and Nga-uranga. This was subsequently found by the Waitangi Tribunal to be an invalid purchase.

The Crown assumes ownership of the Town Belt and proclaims it a public reserve. The Crown requires everyone to vacate the Town Belt, including those Maori communities with rangatirotanga over the Town Belt land.

The Crown transfers remaining Town Belt land in trust to the City of Wellington.

Terms for managing the Town Belt ‘as a public recreation ground’ are set out in the Town Belt Deed.

One third of Town Belt land is appropriated for a range of public purposes, including hospitals, roads and schools. By the late 1860s, most of the native timber on the Town Belt had been removed.

The Wellington City Council starts conifer planting on the Town Belt.

The Wellington City Exhibition Grounds Act authorises the Council to lease over 5.6 hectares of the Town Belt in Newtown to the Wellington Show Association.

The Wellington Sonnery Preservation Society is formed. It is committed to enhancing the Town Belt as an open-space parkland.

The grazing of dairy cows on the Town Belt for the town milk supply is ended.

The Wellington City Council approves the current Town Belt Management Plan.

The Wellington City Council approves the Town Belt Reinstatement Policy.

Telecom land on Te Awhumairangi Hill (formerly Tinakori Hill) is restored to the Town Belt.

The Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Wha-nui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act 2009 settles historic Treaty of Waitangi breaches. The Town Belt is not subject to the settlement because it is not Crown land.

The Waitangi Tribunal finds ‘that the Crown, in taking most of the Town Belt land from Maori without their consent or any consultation, and without making any payment, acted in breach of article 2 of the Treaty of Waitangi and failed to respect the rangatirotanga of Maori in and over their land.’