

Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo



*Kāwhia Moana
Kāwhia Kai
Kāwhia Tāngata*



50 Woodman Drive
Tawa
WELLINGTON

11 August 2022

Cath Holland
Chair
Waipapa Marae Trustees
KAWHIA

Email: c.te.m.holland@gmail.com

Tēnā Koe Cath

Re: Public Comments made at Waipapa Whaanui Hui on 6 August 2022

The Rūnanganui is aware that a number of comments have been made regarding the negotiation of Ngāti Hikairo's Waitangi Tribunal Claims, including but not restricted to the Western Harbours Claim, otherwise known as WAI 30.

So that there is no confusion, the Rūnanganui would like to clarify the following:

1. All Waitangi Tribunal Claims for Ngāti Hikairo are the responsibility of Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo and have been since the establishment of the Rūnanganui in 1995.
2. This includes WAI 30, otherwise known as the Western Harbours Claim and incorporates Manukau Harbour, Whaingaroa Harbour, Aotea Harbour and Kawhia Moana.
3. It also includes all remaining Waitangi Tribunal Claims for Ngāti Hikairo Iwi and Iwi members. In the case of individual claimants, all have attributed their authority to Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo for their claim to be negotiated with the Crown
4. The Mandate document regarding Waikato Tainui's role as a negotiator for the Western Harbour Claims does not include Ngāti Hikairo. 32 Hapū/Iwi signed the mandate document, 8 iwi did not. Ngāti Hikairo were one of the 8 iwi that did not sign.
5. The mandate for the exploration of options regarding negotiating the outstanding Waitangi Tribunal Claims, including WAI 30 were given in a unanimous decision by the Iwi to Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo in the Annual General Meetings of June 2021 and July 2022.

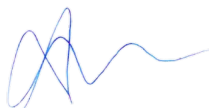
Waipapa Whaanui were involved and included in those meetings. This endorsement of the Rūnanganui to negotiate our Waitangi Tribunal claims on behalf of Ngāti Hikairo has been ongoing since its establishment in 1995.

6. Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo are recognised by the Crown as the representatives of Ngāti Hikairo regarding the WAI 30 and Remaining Claims.
7. There are no other mandates recognising any other negotiating body for Ngāti Hikairo and its claims.
8. Any arrangements that the trustees make with Waikato Tainui regarding representation is a matter for the Trustees, but this is not a mandate to represent Ngāti Hikairo, or any whaanui of Ngāti Hikairo regarding the WAI 30 claim or any other Waitangi Tribunal Claim
9. Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo will continue to progress the mandating process for Ngāti Hikairo regarding the negotiating options for WAI 30 and our Remaining Claims, as directed by our iwi.
10. We encourage the Trustees to continue to fulfil their responsibilities as the caretakers of Waipapa Paa and look forward to the time when our Paa can be reopened, and the people can return to their turangawaewae.

We trust that this letter clarifies the position of Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo for the trustees. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further clarification.

As this is a of considerable interest for our iwi, this letter will be published on the Rūnanganui Website and distributed onto the iwi and whaanui websites 24 hours after it is sent to your email address.

Heoi anō



Susan Turner
Chair
Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo



Lees Seymour
Claims Manager
Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo