

# *Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo*



*Kāwhia Moana  
Kāwhia Kai  
Kāwhia Tāngata*



Maku te tītī, Maku te whewhera !

Nā Tiriwa

**Wai 30 Treaty Claims and Marine and Coastal area (MACA) application Project Manager report**

**24 June 2025**

## **Introduction**

E ngā mate huhua o Ngāti Hikairo, rātou kua wheturangtia, okioki ai, okioki ai okioki ai.

Ko te Kīngi Māori Tūheitia Pōtatatu Te Whereowhero te Tuawhitu ki te rangi, Ko Te Arkinui Kuini Nga wai hono i te po ki te whenua, rirerire hau paimarire

E ngā hunāga o Ngāti Hikairo kua whakarauika mai ki te tautoko ngā kaupapa e whārikihia , tēnā tātou, tēnā tātou, tēnā tātou katoa.

Mānawatia a Matariki !

It is my pleasure to present this report to the 2025 Annual General Meeting of Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo

## **Wai 30**

This process is very complex, and we still have a lot of work to do before a satisfactory position for Ngāti Hikairo can be achieved. The Deed of Mandate (DOM) does not allow for Ngāti Hikairo to represent itself or to negotiate its Treaty Claims as part of the Wai 30 process. The DOM establishes a moana (harbour) by moana approach with Waikato-Tainui as the lead negotiator.

Whilst Ngāti Hikairo has not signed up to the deed of mandate we have been working in the spirit of Kotahitanga to find a way in which our interests can be represented and heard. We have been in discussions with other hapū and the negotiation team as we have worked to find a way forward, and we look forward to signing the deed of mandate in due course.

During the last 12 months, due to our efforts alongside other hapū, we have seen a major breakthrough in that a revised negotiating structure has been developed and is under consideration by hapū. The major change is that the structure of each moana negotiating team allows direct involvement of hapū representatives in this (see attached revised structure).

We have been working alongside Ngāti Mahuta, as the other significant iwi in Kāwhia, in terms of this Wai 30 claim, and we have developed a strong working relationship. The DOM also requires us to work together and we are willing to work with our huānga to negotiate a settlement.

We have discussed this revised structure within the TRONH executive as well as with several of our Kaumatua and there is support in principle for the new structure with the following exceptions;

1. We want Ngāti Hikairo / Ngāti Mahuta to lead the negotiations with support from Waikato / Tainui.
2. We don't support the Kāwhia Marae Representatives participation, this group is not in the DOM and has no mandate to negotiate.
3. We don't support Ngāti Apakura being part of this negotiation as our view is that they have no valid claim to Kāwhia Moana.

These matters have been raised with other hapū and Waikato/Tainui and are still in the process of being resolved. We are looking to resolve them as soon as we can using the appropriate tikanga.

Our claimants have given the mandate to settle our claims to Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo, and many previous hui-a-tau have confirmed this mandate. For the record we confirm that TRONH has the mandate to settle our claims and will continue working hard to get the best outcome for ngā uri katoa o Ngāti Hikairo.

## **MACA**

There has been very little progress over the last 12 months with our MACA application, this is as a consequence to a change in Government Policy that saw;

1. Te Arawhiti (the Crown entity responsible for MACA) being dis-established
2. Te Tari Whakatau being established (the new Crown entity responsible for MACA)
3. The Government decision to not fund any MACA applications that were not being actively heard in the high court. Noting that our application is still under development and is not ready to be heard in the high court.

Alongside this our historian is living in Israel and has been subject to the perils of war in the part of the world.

Given these challenges we are now working up a plan to get the remaining work completed within the resources we have – our people and our aroha.

The next steps are to complete the historian's report and complete our own iwi report. We have a draft Historian report in hand. The report is very comprehensive and well written, and we thank all have contributed, especially our Historian and our Iwi historian Frank Thorne.

Both the historian's report and the Iwi report will be very good documents to share with all Ngāti Hikairo once they are completed.

The other concerning matter is the new Government's policy to not have any further hearings apart from the ones that are already scheduled (effectively excluding us as well as many others), this is again being challenged and we are hopeful of a positive outcome.

## Summary

Regardless of the difficulties that we are facing we continue to work hard to gather the information and make the case that clearly states the history, the importance, and the place of Ngāti Hikairo in Kāwhia, Aotearoa and the world !

Mauri ora

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lees Seymour". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue background behind the text.

Lees Seymour  
Project Manager